

SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE

A Whole New Ball Game

A new company to replace the existing corporate entity of Soccer Australia will be formed within days to oversee the development and control of the game in Australia.

This follows confirmation that Soccer Australia is in effect "broke" and unable to manage the activities of soccer in Australia.

Independent advice provided to the board by expert insolvency practitioners, Ferrier Hodgson and KordaMentha and lawyers Arnold Bloch Leibler, confirmed that the board inherited a significant deficiency of assets over liabilities. Moreover the company could expect to become insolvent by November 2003. Projections over the next three years indicated an annual deficit of more than \$3 million, and growing during the period.

After careful consideration of what is in the best interest of Soccer Australia's stakeholders, soccer players, trade creditors, employees and commercial partners, directors agreed to establish a new not for profit body to take over Australia's FIFA membership and to assume control of soccer in Australia.

The new body will be known as the Australian Soccer Association Limited.

This new company will assume responsibility for the staff and programs of Soccer Australia. The move to the new structure will not affect the playing program for the Socceroos or any other soccer competition taking place or planned.

FIFA has advised that it will recognise the Australian Soccer Association Ltd as the controlling body for soccer in Australia and the reorganisation has the support of the Australian Government, through the Australian Sports Commission

and the Australian Olympic Committee.

The board has agreed that: Soccer Australia will effectively cease activity no later than 30 September 2003 in anticipation of the Australian Soccer Association taking over with effect immediately existing directors of Soccer Australia will become the first directors of the new Australian Soccer Association. existing major State and Territory Federations will be offered interim membership of the new company, strictly in accordance with the Crawford Report.

The new constitution for the Australian Soccer Association will reflect the recommendations of the Crawford Report.

Under this constitution the board of the Australian Soccer Association will recognise one member body per State. State member bodies will be asked to adopt consistent State constitutions.

There will be a 90-day period of consultation during which time the Australian Soccer Association will work with the State bodies to develop and implement their constitutions. It is expected that new State members will be confirmed by 31 December 2003.

The new State members of the Australian Soccer Association will assume responsibility for setting up the new State structure under the new constitution and by-laws and in line with the Crawford Report.

The new entity will receive financial assistance of \$15 million from the Australian Government to implement the recommendations of the Crawford Report.

Mr Lowy said the decision to create a new entity provided an opportunity to start the rebuilding of soccer in Australia with "a clean sheet."

"We can now begin a fresh relationship with the soccer community, players, administrators, governments and potential sponsors.

"We will develop a blueprint for the national competition which is the foundation upon which soccer in Australia will be rebuilt. Everything else flows from that.

"We would hope to introduce a new-look national competition in time for the 2004 season, but much work needs to be done.



Frank Lowy will lead a new look line-up in shaping up the Australian soccer game.

"We need to restore credibility, and attract sponsors and other commercial partners to get money flowing into the game.

"I should emphasise that as the new board develops the long-term strategy for the game in Australia it will consider the importance of the grass roots aspects as well as the national league and Socceroos.

"The thousands of grass roots competitions that occur around the country — week in, week out — are the breeding grounds for future Socceroos and it is important that we nurture the role of community soccer."

Mr Lowy said he was grateful on behalf of the soccer community for the support from the Australian Government.

"The Government, especially the Prime Minister, the Minister for Sport and the Australian Sports Commission, has been incredibly supportive of soccer," he said. "The financial assistance they have made available is a serious and very necessary investment in the future of the sport and gives us the base we need to grow the game," he said.

Since the new board was elected in July it has made a number of key management appointments. These include:

Mr Richard Johnson as Chief Financial Officer and acting CEO. Mr Johnson was formerly Senior International Vice President, Finance & Administration, for IMG's Worldwide Football Division.

Mr Michael Thomson as General Counsel/Business Development.

This core management team will work closely with the board and with input from stakeholders in the coming months on a number of priorities, including:

Development of a strategic plan for the National Soccer League in Australia

which will be the cornerstone for the rejuvenation of the game at a professional level. This will include consideration of, inter alia:

- ensuring national competition clubs are financially sound;
- increasing the quality of the competition;

- encouraging overseas-based Australian players to return to play in the new national soccer competition and minimising the leakage of players to overseas clubs;

- establishing strategic media and commercial partners for the national competition to ensure appropriate levels of funding for the game long-term.

Development of a three-year international match program for all Australian international teams, including the 2004 Athens Olympics and the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany;

- development of a detailed program for the Socceroos, including recruitment of a world-class technical adviser and establishing a "home base" for the Socceroos in Europe;

- evaluation and development of commercial and sponsorship opportunities.

Mr Lowy said his personal objective for soccer was to create the structure and environment for the game to flourish.

"My role, and that of the board, will be to create the structure and appoint professional managers to run the game. Our role is not to manage the game day-to-day but to develop the strategy and then ensure we have the right people to implement the strategy.

"It will be a long road, and there will be many bumps, but at least we are now on the road."

GRIERSON CROWNED QUEENSLAND'S BEST

By Glenn Davis

Palm Beach midfielder Peter Grierson capped off a highly successful season with the Gold Coast based Premier League club by winning Queensland Soccer's prestigious Gold Medal award last Saturday night.

Grierson, who is again playing in the national league with Brisbane Strikers this season, picked up the gold medal in a close contest with North Star's Michael Brockwell.

Grierson polled 25 points throughout the season to beat Brockwell by one point.

Queensland Lion's Warren Moon also polled well finishing third just four points behind Grierson with



Peter Grierson picked up this year's QLD Player of the Year.

FINAL POINTS TALLY

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|---------------|
| 25 | Peter Grierson | 21 | Warren Moon |
| 24 | Michael Brockwell | 20 | Craig Collins |
| 18 | Mark Bennett | | |

Taringa's Craig Collins fourth with 21 points.

The gold medal battle was so close the winner wasn't known until counting finished in the final round.

It was the second of two awards Grierson captured at Brisbane Men's Soccer annual award nights.

Earlier Grierson was announced joint winner of the Golden Boot award with Greg Di Losa from Lions, presented to the leading Premier League goalscorer.

The awards night also saw the presentation of all the divisional champions and club championship awards along with the Referee of the Year, John Peacock.

National League Wrap-up
on Pages 6-7 & 8

- Includes Reports
- Player Ratings
- Stats
- Standings

West Germany
vs
Australia
1974

See Page 5

Queensland
Lions Special

See Pages 16-17

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aussiesabroad

BY DANIEL KUZIOW

Parma's Australian midfielder Mark Bresciano said he was in dreamland after his two goals, including an 89th minute winner, gave his team a 3-2 win over Lazio in Serie A on Sunday.

Bresciano opened the scoring after just 26 seconds at the Olympic Stadium and it was the former Empoli midfielder who grabbed the decisive goal at the end with a superb finish to put Parma top of the league.



Marco Bresciano:
Delighted with his two
goal haul last week
against Lazio.

"It's a wonderful moment in my life, it's incredible, almost like a dream," said Bresciano to www.football.guardian.co.uk

"Don't say that this win was due to luck or just a shot in the last minute. We went out there concentrated and convinced we had a chance," added the Australian.

"The coach prepared us well for this game and in the end we responded in the best possible way," he added.

★★★★

Josip Skoko enjoyed an excellent game for Genclerbirliigi as the Turks shocked Blackburn Rovers 3-1 at home in the UEFA Cup last night.

Australia international midfielder Skoko opened the scoring with a superb 35-yard lob after Rovers No1 Brad Friedel was caught off his line.

International teammate Brett Emerton also got on the score-sheet for Blackburn, tapping in

after good work from Andy Cole early in the second-half.

Afterwards, Genclerbirliigi coach Ersun Yanal praised Skoko's performance: "It was a very even game, but his goal broke the deadlock. It took a lot of composure to score from that position."

"It was looking like it could go either way after they scored (through Emerton), but the last two goals gave us a good platform going to England."

Meanwhile Danny Tiatto is struggling injury after limping out of the UEFA Cup tie with Lokeren.

The Australian international had to be helped off the pitch as his side trailed 2-1 in the second-half and is rated doubtful for this Sunday's match at The City of Manchester Stadium.

Kevin Keegan said that Tiatto had suffered a dead leg but refused to rule him out of his plans for the weekend.

The 30-year-old limped out of the ground on crutches, and Keegan added:

"It's too early to start talking about Sunday."

"But we'll give Danny right up until the game to get himself fit."

★★★★

Rangers manager Alex McLeish has told new captain Craig Moore he may face a wait to wear the armband for the first time.



Craig Moore: Has a fight
on his hands if he wishes
to return to the Rangers
starting line up.

The Australian has been out with a hamstring injury for more than a month, during which time he inherited the captaincy from Barry Ferguson who left for Blackburn.

Moore is close to a comeback, and McLeish is hoping to be able to include him in the squad for the visit of Dundee.

But with stand-in pair Henning Berg and Zurab Khizanishvili having done so well in his absence, Moore may not go straight back into the starting line-up.

McLeish told Rangers News: "Craig ran with the players for the first time last Monday, and his hamstring is reasonably strong again."

"It is just a matter of him getting confidence in it now."

"If all goes well this week it is very likely he would be involved in some way on Saturday."

"But Henning and Zurab have played very well at the back, and it would be difficult to change that partnership."

"I'm sure Craig would be the first to appreciate that."

"Over the course of a long, hard season we will need everybody anyway - and we would like to get our newly-appointed captain some match practice as soon as possible."

★★★★

Despite reports suggesting Northern Spirit captain Andrew McDermott had joined SPL side Dunfermline - boss Jimmy Calderwood denied signing the former West Brom and Notts County player.

Calderwood said yesterday: "He's a lad who was here, but wasn't transfer free at that time, but he's supposed to be now. There's nothing been done at all."

"It might be possible in the future but there's nothing at the moment. Apparently, according to the television and teletext it was all signed, sealed and delivered but I haven't spoken to the boy since he was here in July."

"Until I talk to him there won't be anything happening."

★★★★

Osasuna have been rocked by the news that Australian striker John Aloisi will be out of action for up to a month.

The former Coventry hit-man has recently been troubled by a thigh injury and was forced out of last weekend's match with Barcelona.

It was thought Aloisi would return to the fray this weekend, but the problem has proved more serious than first presumed, and the 27-year-old will now be sidelined for between three and four weeks.

There was more bad news for Osasuna boss Javier Aguirre after it was revealed that Brazilian midfielder Julio Cesar Pinheiro will also miss this weekend's league encounter with Deportivo La Coruna.

★★★★



man Richard Garcia on-loan after tracking the Australian for more than a year.

"Garcia came on as a substitute for the Hammers against Cardiff City and at this moment in time, the management at Upton Park don't want to allow the 21-year-old to leave the club."

★★★★

Darlington have cancelled the contract of Russell Waller by mutual consent as he plans to return to his native Australia.

The 19-year-old has been troubled by a knee injury since joining The Quakers almost two years ago and he wants to return home.

Waller failed to make a first-team appearance for the Nationwide Division Three side, but Darlington boss Mick Tait admitted it was a blow to lose the player.

"It's a blow because we have lost a potentially very good player," manager Mick Tait told the club's official website.

★★★★

Peterborough United have confirmed they're chasing West Ham midfielder Richie Garcia.

Posh boss Barry Fry wants the versatile Garcia to play in attack and the Second Division club said last week:

"(Barry) Fry is still trying to sign West Ham United front



John Aloisi: The Osasuna striker will be out of action for a month with a thigh injury.



HILLS BRUMBIES SOCCER CLUB

STATE LEAGUE TRIALS 2004 SEASON

VENUE: VALENTINE PARK

DATES:

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----|---------|
| Tuesday | 14th October | 7pm | Field 5 |
| Thursday | 16th October | 7pm | Field 2 |
| Sunday | 19th October | 9am | Field 4 |
| Tuesday | 21st October | 7pm | Field 5 |
| Thursday | 23rd October | 7pm | Field 2 |
| Sunday | 26th October | 9am | Field 5 |

FIRST GRADE TRIALS

VENUE: VALENTINE PARK

DATES:

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----|---------|
| Tuesday | 28th October | 7pm | Field 5 |
| Thursday | 30th October | 7pm | Field 2 |
| Sunday | 2nd November | 9am | Field 5 |

CONTACT:

Lance Chaloner Director of Football
0418 152 164 or Brian Tait First Grade Coach
9629 7920



2003

Division One Club Championships

Applications for Coaches are invited for the
2004 YOUTH LEAGUE
 Stating Coaching Level,
 Coaching Experience.
 Closing Date October 3
 Send to:

THE SECRETARY
 P.O. Box 243 Blacktown 2148

For Further Information Phone
Joe Belcastro 0418 447 138
Mario Bezzina 0413 632 727

CAMDEN TIGERS SOCCER CLUB



DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE 2004

Camden Tigers, Youth League are now seeking
 applications from
 Qualified Coaches to prepare our teams for the 2004 season
 Coaching positions are available in the following age groups
U/13, U/14, U/15, U/16, U/18

All applications should be in writing to the
 Manager Representative Teams

Camden Soccer Club
 PO Box 165
 CAMDEN NSW 2570

For further information please contact
 Rick Carroll, Manager Representative Teams
 0418.611.515 or 9824.8036



RYDE CITY GUNNERS Coaching Positions 2004

Ryde City Gunners Football Club requires coaches
 for the 2004 State League season.
 The positions include 1st Grade and U/20s in the
 Super League competition and Youth League
 coaches for U/13, U/14, U/15, U/16 and U/18 age
 groups.

For further information contact:
 State League Manager:
Greg Young 0418 249 042 mobile
 Youth League Director:
Glen Longbottom 9817 4706

Nominations will close Friday 10th October, 2003

Southern NSW Soccer



Super Youth League and Girls Youth League Trials 2004

| | |
|--|--|
| U11 - U12 BOYS U12, U14, U16 GIRLS 10.00am Sunday, 19th October, 2003 South Nowra Soccer Fields | U13, U14, U15, U16 & U18 BOYS 1.00pm Sunday, 19th October, 2003 South Nowra Soccer Fields |
|--|--|

For more information, contact Joan Robertson 4861 2886 (BH)

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TRIALS

Metropolitan League
 U/11's: 03/10, 10/10, 17/10 - 6.15pm to 8.15pm
 U/12's: 17/10, 24/10, 31/10 - 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Super Youth League
 U/13's & U/14's: 13/10, 20/10, 27/10 & 03/11
 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm
 U/15's & U/16's: 15/10, 22/10, 29/10 & 05/11
 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm
 U/18's: 19/10, 26/10, 02/11 & 09/11
 - 9.00am to 11.00am
 Enquiries: Youth League — Steve Boyd (m) 0408 400 396
 Metro League — Keith Charles (m) 0403 289 267

NEPEAN ASSOCIATION GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE

U/12'S 10.30AM TO 12.00PM
 U/14'S 12.00PM TO 1.30PM
 U/16'S 1.30PM TO 3.00PM

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

1ST GRADE & U21'S 3.00PM TO 5.00PM

GIRLS & WOMENS DATES

DATES: 19/10, 26/10, 02/11, 09/11

ENQUIRIES John Todd (M) 0409 969 540

ALL TRAILS HELD AT COOK PARK
 WILSON STREET, ST MARYS



SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

2004

**Trial Dates 19-10, 26-10
YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS**

| | | | |
|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| Under 13's | 9.00am | Under 14's | 10.30am |
| Under 15's | 12.00pm | Under 16's | 1.30pm |

Under 18's at 3pm
 Also the Under 13's
 Under 13's WEDNESDAY 15-10 6.30PM
 at **Druitt Town Centre**

Trials for 2-11 and 9-11
 Under 13's and Under 14's time 10am
 Under 15's and Under 16's time 11.30am
 Under 18's time 1pm

For all trials arrive 1/2 an hour early
**FIRST GRADE DIVISION 1 STATE MENS
 AND UNDER 20's**
PHONE STAN ACKERLEY 0409 304 900
OR MARIO BEZZINA 0413 632 727
ALL TRIALS

WHERE AT: **MT DRUITT TOWN CENTRE,
 RALFE PLACE, MT DRUITT**
 FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION PHONE
JOE BELCASTRO 0418 447 138
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ATTENTION ALL YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS

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2004 PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

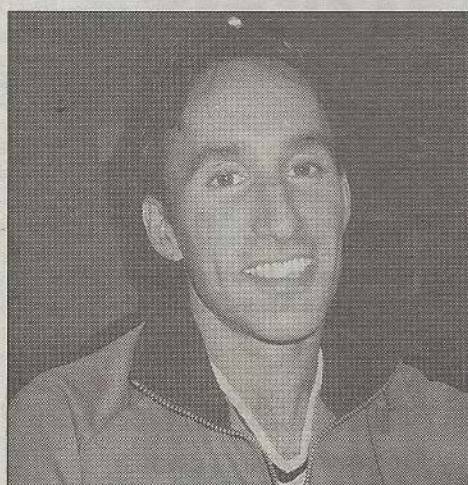
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FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
Chief Scout JOHN CURRAN 0405 148 254

Q&A WITH AURELIO VIDMAR AND DAVID BARRETT



Aurelio Vidmar set to shine for new club Adelaide United.

AURELIO VIDMAR

1) What made you think of retiring from the game?

I said if there wasn't a team in S.A. that I would retire from the game, I had no intentions of going interstate to play.

The players were thrown a lifeline with the announcement that Adelaide United were going to Form.

2) Now that Adelaide United are back, your back in the game, why did you make the move to play once more?

I was ready to play this season with Adelaide City Force anyway, we had done 4 weeks of pre-season when the club pulled the pin.

3) The loss of the Force and now the new beginning of Adelaide United, what does this mean to the soccer public in South Australia?

It means a hell of a lot, the South Australian public have been screaming for something like the Adelaide United Football Club to come along for ages. It would have been disastrous if Adelaide had no participant in the National Soccer league. The feedback so far has been tremendous.

4) Do you think your squad has the potential to establish itself as a mainstream side in the National League?

Given sufficient time I believe Adelaide United

will be a formidable team in the competition, and the public will be encouraged by the philosophy's used at the club on the development of our local players.

5) We're aware that you've also gained the Assistant Coach's position, tell us a bit about that?

Yes that's right, I was approached to be the Inaugural captain of the team and also the assistant, it was a huge honour. I won't be playing forever so it is a good opportunity to develop in the coaching aspects of the game.

6) Your most memorable period in your footballing career?

Always a difficult question to answer, I was blessed to be able to play soccer and thankful that I was able to pursue soccer as a career, every game good and bad has been memorable, along the way I have met some wonderful people in and out of the game.

7) What do you hope to achieve from this season?

It will definitely be a season where there will be some pain on the playing field, with the lack of preparation so far we need to be as organized as possible and be very competitive, I believe a top 6 spot is not out of the question.

8) How is your brother Tony going? Any plans of having him play for Adelaide United next season alongside you?

Tony is doing very well with his new club Cardiff City, he is extremely happy with where his football is at this point of time, time will only tell if he will ever come back to live let alone play in Adelaide.

9) Will this season be officially your last or will you continue to play on?

I will evaluate everything at the end of the season like I have been doing for the last 3 years. I am in good physical condition and have managed to stay away from injuries, if I feel good I can't see why I couldn't continue.

10) Life after soccer, what will you be doing in your free time?

With a beautiful and hard headed 2 year old girl, and a 4 month old girl who thankfully takes after her mum, my hands are reasonably full already, I would love to continue in the game in some capacity, it's what I know best.



David Barrett will sport the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt colours in this seasons NSW Premier League.

DAVID BARRETT

1) What are your plans at the moment in your footballing career, the soccer public is aware that Sydney United has let you go, where are you now?

I have signed with NSW Premier League side A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt.

2) Your time at Sydney United - how was it?

It was full of mixed emotions. I returned to full time work at Westfields Sports High, had our second child Jacob.

The combination of work, family and soccer was difficult at times, it made me appreciate my time spent playing full time where soccer was your main focus and there was more time for family and rest.

We had a competitive squad but lacked quality up front. We had the 4th best defensive record and worst attacking record, but I was rather pleased with my form.

3) Most memorable period in your footballing career?

It would have to be the Grand Final win with Sydney Olympic in 89/90 and the Minor Premiership with Sydney United in 98/99. Also playing for the U17 joeys in China, 1985.

4) The standard of the National League this season, will it be an improvement from the last campaign?

Due to financial constraints younger players will probably be given opportunities which is great. Hopefully there is enough top quality experienced players to help the younger ones along. The important issues in soccer at present are off the park. We will always have good players but we must give them a decent platform to display their talents.

5) Did you have offers to go elsewhere in the National League?

Nothing concrete. It's difficult to contemplate playing away from where your work and family are with little financial incentive.

6) There's a rumour stating that you've made the move to NSW Premier League side Leichhardt Tigers, is this true? if so why did you make the move there?

I had several coaching and development offers but I still love playing and want to continue for a couple more years.

Leichhardt tigers is my local club and after talking to Les De Celis I was convinced I could continue my career and most importantly enjoy my football.

7) Your also a well-known school teacher at Westfields Sports High, how is all that going?

It's going great. Westfields is a wonderful school where the pursuit of sporting and academic excellence co-exist for the benefit of our students.

Our principal Phil Tucker has transformed the school into a model which is being studied and copied worldwide. Teaching at Westfields gives me the opportunity to teach maths and also coach in the soccer program.

8) How long do you see yourself playing the round ball game?

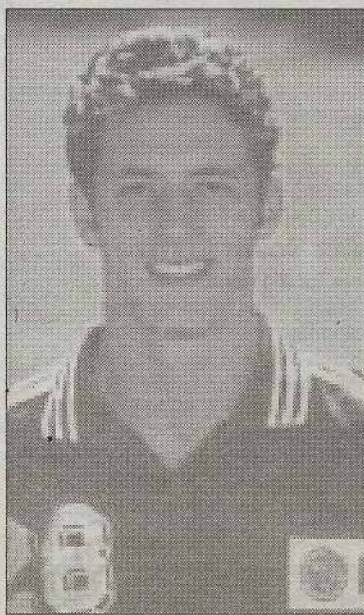
Forever. I'm one of those blokes who loves training and I plan to play the game for as long as I can.

9) Life after soccer, what are your plans?

I am currently head teacher of maths and senior coach at Westfields. I am interested in coaching/developing young players but don't view it as a career in the current climate. We are currently planning a tour of Asia through my school which is enough to keep me busy.

BYRNES HUNGRY FOR GLORY SUCCESS

By Franco Mula



Mark Byrnes: The tough defender is ready for a huge season with last year's champions, the Perth Glory.

Perth Glory's pacey defender Mark Byrnes is hungry for another grand final in the 2003-2004 NSL season.

The former under 17 Joeys captain who played for Vicenza in Italy's Serie B and the Olympic Sharks, is in his second season with Perth Glory, and is loving every minute of it.

"I'm really enjoying it here [Perth], especially the great atmosphere and the passionate crowd, it's like playing in Europe with the huge crowd support," says Byrnes.

Byrnes was part of the grand final winning side last year, it was his first year at Perth and he has already tasted success, "it was great to win the grand final in my first year, and I want to win it again."

Byrnes who is one of four former Olympic Shark players, has adapted to the Perth life style from Sydney pretty well, "it's a bit like Sydney, just more slower and relaxed, and on a smaller scale."

Two of Byrnes' team mates Wayne Srhoj and Jade North who came from Olympic are also enjoying their time at Glory, "they are two close mates of mine as we played with each other not only at Olympic but also with the Australian under 17 side where we got silver in the world championships in 1999," says Byrnes.

That was one of Byrnes' career highlights so far besides his grand final win.

This year his personal goals are to cement a regular starting spot with the Glory, and to make the Socceroo's Olympic squad for Athens 2004.

"To make the Olympic squad will be great it is one thing I want to achieve." Byrnes believes his best chance of making the side, "is to play good consistent soccer with Perth, which will hopefully catch the eye of Frank Farina," adds Byrnes.

Besides making the squad for the 2004 Olympics, Byrnes' future plans are to have another stint playing overseas some where down the track, "I would like to head over there again one day in the future."

But concentrating on this year for now Byrnes believes Glory have the team to go all the way to the grand final and win it.

"Here at Glory we have a strong squad with a lot of good young players, plus the home support we have is huge. It is quite fair to say that the Perth Glory crowd is one of the biggest and most parochial crowds in the NSL and they definitely make their presence felt to the opposing teams who travel West of Australia."

"Our fans are great and we want to do well to keep the support of our fans."



Frank Farina

Australian World Cup 1974 Re-Union Dinner

By John Economos

NOVEMBER 13th, 2003, a Special 1974 World Cup Re-Union Dinner has been planned to be staged at the plush and picturesque La Montage Restaurant in the inner Western Suburb of Sydney, Leichhardt.

Australia's historic 1974 World Cup squad is the only side to have ever qualified for the global Finals staged in Munich, West Germany.

This entire historic Soccer squad will assemble on

November 13th with fans and a Special Guest, from overseas, at the La Montage Restaurant.

Bookings for limited tickets for this nostalgic evening Dinner can be made by calling 0416 288 627.

West Germany vs Australia Flashback..1974

Its June 18th, 1974. Australia was drawn to play the European giants and eventual World Cup champions West Germany at the Volkspark Stadion in Hamburg.

Even before the kick-off, all knew it was going to be a torrid battle for the Australian part-timers and Egyptian referee, Kamel, would have to be on alert.

The well-drilled and powerful West Germans, captained by the legendary and immaculate, stylistic Franz Beckenbauer, were rated as the red-hot favourites to win this quadrennial global Championship, especially having the huge advantage of being the host nation.

The West Germans were not only well-drilled, but



Dogie Utjesenovic: Australia's 1974 World Cup outstanding attacking right — fullback.

boasted a galaxy of super stars that 29 years later are still easily remembered as legends.

Beckenbauer was the World's first 'dynamic', sweeper; the towering Sepp Maier was an almost unbeatable goalkeeper; Berti Vogts (Scotland's current national manager), was a tenaciously focused 'Policeman', Paul Breitner the Afro-haired attacking left back, could slam penalties off the wrong foot; Wolfgang Overath an unyielding attacking midfielder, plus the stocky, barrel-chested lethal marksman Gerd Mueller.

A ferocious, frightening, footballing foe.

The West German manager was the shrewd veteran Helmut Schoen.

Australia's line-up, led by skipper and sweeper Peter Wilson, had Jack Reilly in goals, our nation's best-ever twin attacking fullbacks in Dougie Utjesenovic and Col Curran, centre-back Manfred Schaefer.

Ernie Campbell, Ray Richards, Jimmy Mackay and Jimmy Rooney formed the midfield whilst upfront through the middle was Adrian Alston with the ball-playing Branko Buljevic out wide on the left flank.

Despite Australia's courageous display, the West Germans rattled in first half goals through Overath and Bernhard Cullmann.

The jammed German packed Stadion anticipated a real second half slaughter.

At the break Australia's manager Rale Rasic replaced Ernie Campbell with deadly dribbler Atti Abonyi out wide on the right. The Abonyi change came perilously close to yielding dividends for Australia as the very thinly-built striker hit the base of the West German right upright.

The very brave part-time Australians denied the Germans a flood of second half goals until Mueller burst through to head in their third

and final goal.

ABS^W this week briefly caught up with Dougie Utjesenovic, Australia's outstanding attacking right fullback who could hammer in his crosses as well as free-kicks, with an incredible 'reverse', swing.

The cultured defender reminisced to ABS^W: "The West German team was easily the best side I have ever seen play. This team was the best drilled unit and were well ahead of their time," Utjesenovic reflected.

He went on to underline: "It was an unbelievable privilege for us to be on the very same playing pitch as these super stars."

"To play against mega names such as Beckenbauer, Maier, Breitner, Overath, Mueller and Vogts, real legends, was unbelievable for us part-timers. Please allow me to put it in a simple way that it was an unforgettable privilege to play against this team," nostalgically reflected Utjesenovic.



Johnny Watkiss Australia's magnificent International kissing his young daughter goodbye just prior to his departure for West Germany at Sydney's International Airport with his admiring wife Judy looking on.



Australian World Cup 1974 left winger, Branko Buljevic in action as West Germany's tough defender Berti Vogts sliding in with a tackle.

Marconi Stallions vs Newcastle United



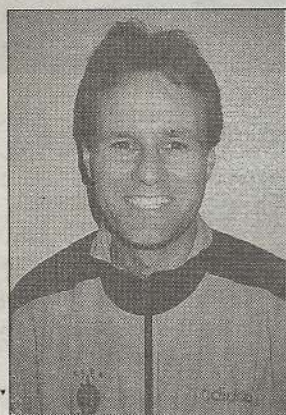
Saturday Night

Marconi Youth vs Newcastle United

Youth League 5.00pm Kick-Off

Main Game Kick-Off 7.30pm

Marconi Stadium



Jean Paul De Marigny
(Manager)



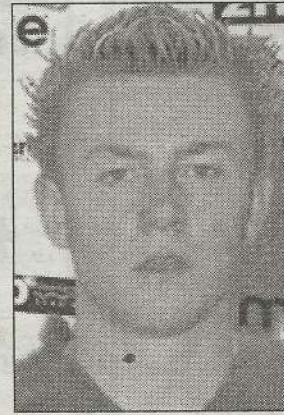
Brad Maloney



Alex Brosque



Esala Masi



Jobe Wheelhouse



Ian Crook
(Manager)

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National Soccer League



Match of the Round



Sydney United

2



Football Kingz

1

By Stuart Jones

Last Sunday at Edensor Park Sydney United battled hard for a 2-1 victory over a defensive Football Kingz side.

United's win, in front of a disappointing crowd of 3169, came thanks to goals from Langdon in the 58th minute and Zmire in the 62nd.

The day had not started well for United with Michael Santalab reporting to Grant Lee that he would miss the match as he had been diagnosed with gallstones (he will miss a couple of weeks). Add to that a stomach complaint that had gone through the club this past week and things were not looking good. In the end a couple of players played who had been very sick all week including Wollongong recruit David Huxley.

The first half looked like Sydney United were not the only side battling with illness. At half time it was literally zero goalkeeper saves, zero shots on target, zero goals and zero entertainment. Sydney United coach Grant Lee said after the match that if he had paid for the game he would have been demanding his money back at half time.

The Kingz played very warily with Harry Ngata and Aleksander Midstain up front and then a deep midfield of

three and five at the back. Sydney United failed to move the ball into their attacking third and at times there were twenty players around the centre circle area. This defensive strategy of the Kingz may have been understandable from the Kingz as last year they had the equal worst defence in the league and 8 of their 14 players were new to the club this year but United's coma was less understandable, they simply had no idea on how to get through the Kingz.

It all frustrated the United players as Mark Rudan got a silly yellow card for throwing the ball at Harry Ngata, Sean Babic got a yellow card for a poor tackle and then Glen Collins of the Kingz got one for taking down Babic. The better players for the Kingz in the first half were Jeff Campbell and Darren Young. Maybe if Jeff Campbell's shot early had been on target, it was from 30 metres and caught Liam Reddy off guard, the game would have been alive.

Eight minutes into the second half and the game changed. Midstain put a low cross through from the left of goal and Michael Cunico put out a foot block it. He was not to know there was no Kingz player in a dangerous position behind him. The ball deflected solidly past Reddy in the

United goal and into the far back corner of the net. Without a shot on target the Kingz were in front.

Immediately Grant Lee called for his United bench and on came young Anthony Doumanis. These two actions woke the locals up. All of a sudden a team that could not do the basics in the first half, not even string three passes together (although they were not alone in that fact) was playing fast and flowing football. Players like Matthew Langdon came alive as Doumanis searched for the ball and then played others into great positions.

In the 57th minute Sean Babic was fouled on the edge of the area. There was a brief fracas between Chris Jackson and Mark Rudan but both remained on the park. Matthew Langdon lined up to take the freekick from right in front and with his left foot curled his shot home. It could well be that new goal keeper Ross Nicholson thought that United's diminutive right winger would use his right foot, unawares that his left foot was more famous,

because he seemed a long way from the ball as it went in.

A minute after the hour mark Sean Babic entertained the crowd by placing the ball in the back of the net despite being well offside and having it called that way by the officials. It was not to be long though. A minute later Matt Langdon made a run down the left, played it to Doumanis who passed to Babic. Babic took it to the byline and then cut it low back to the near post for Anthony Zmire to slot home. United were finally in front and the small crowd of 3169 became much more vocal.

Then came chance after chance for the locals. First the Kingz nearly scored an own goal of their own, then Zmire found himself free in the area when John Tambouris slipped over but Zmire completely scuffed his shot. Sean Babic had a one on one with the keeper but instead of rounding him tried to curl the shot home and it went wide. The Kingz had a chance in the 69th minute when a Campbell cross was headed low and wide by veteran Ngata.



Labinot Haliti shown in full possession of the ball during last week's match against the Kingz.

Twenty minutes to play and Ken Dugdale tried to change things around with a triple substitution but things failed to turn for the Kingz. In the 73rd minute Cunico found the ball in the area after a mix up in the Kingz defence from a corner. Keeper Nicholson punched the shot away but it only managed to balloon to the far post where it looked for all money Mark Rudan would head home. However

Tambouris bravely headed the ball off the line and ended up in the back of the net instead of the ball.

Cunico picked up a yellow card a minute later but things were to turn red five minutes from the end when young substitute Tolgay Ozbey was given a direct red card for a shin to shin tackle on Tambouris. It looked for all money like a yellow card but perhaps a red may have been a little harsh.

At the end the referee Ben Williams loved the game so much he told his fourth official Con Diomis to put up eight minutes of extra time! In the 96th minute of that it looked like we were going to be blessed with another piece

of Doumanis brilliance as he stole the ball of the defender and slotted the ball to the near post, too well for it hit the post. It deflected back onto the body of the keeper but somehow managed to spin away from goal.

In the end a 2-1 result and not a bad second half, but anything would have been okay compared to the basic schoolboy (actually schoolboys would have displayed better basic skills) first half.

Grant Lee was fairly satisfied in total after the match "I can't understand why we were like that in the first half, this was a big game for us going into the bye next week. Once we overcame the hurdle of the first half we played much better. The boys are young and looking for combinations but the biggest thing is they need to believe in themselves."

Overall Lee is enjoying this new phase in his soccer career. "I really enjoyed it as a player and I really enjoy being a coach, at whatever level. A few years ago there was no way I could be the coach at a club like United but the committee has really seen the club change its views and they have backed me and my coaching staff 100%."

A solid start to the season for United but the reality is they have defeated the Kingz and Wolves, two of the bottom three last year. Grant Lee said after the match these are often the hardest as you are always pumped to play big games against the likes of Parramatta and Perth. United fans will be hoping this is really true. For the Kingz it will take a while for their combinations to really click and by then it may be too late.



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE



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National Soccer League



Marconi Stallions

2



Wollongong Wolves

1

By Joe Russo

It was a welcome return to Marconi Stadium for Brad Maloney as he scored both of Marconi's goals after Wollongong Wolves' keeper Andrew Crews was uncertain on both occasions of what to do with crosses from Brendan Renaud.

After the match Marconi coach, Jean-Paul De Marigny, stated that Maloney was a player that he really wanted in his squad this year.

"I've got all the faith in Buggy [Maloney] and he was the first player I wanted when I was putting the squad together," he said.

De Marigny was very pleased overall with the whole team and he gave due credit to Wollongong for not surrendering at any time.

"Credit to Wollongong who went chasing the game but the boys dug deep and we wanted the result. It was very pleasing and overall I am very happy with the performance.

"The mixture of experienced and young players coming through will only ensure that we get better," De Marigny said.

Marconi were clearly the better team in the first half but Wollongong almost evened the ledger in the second

stanza of play. In fact a goal to substitute John Majurovski in the 72nd minute put the Wolves right back in the game. However, the visitors just seemed to lack that hunger for an equaliser and, being a relatively inexperienced NSL team, were not confident enough to throw caution to the wind and really chase the second goal.

A Wollongong corner in the 91st minute probably summed up where the team is, at this stage of the season.



Marconi Stallions players celebrate Brad Maloney's two goals during last week's encounter with the Wollongong Wolves.

In similar situations most teams throw everyone forward including the goalkeeper, but Crews and another defender decided to stick back near the half way line and a final opportunity to put extra pressure on the Stallions went begging.

Wolves coach John Turner acknowledged that his young team is on a learning curve and that by conceding the early goal they were always going to struggle.

"The first goal was a bit cheap but the team did keep battling and you have to realise that there were a lot of young boys out there for us.

"We were playing catch up football and no team can afford to give Marconi two goals this year and expect to catch up," he said.

It was playmaker Nick Carle who stole the show for Marconi, as he was constantly a thorn in Wollongong's side.

"Nick Carle was superb and he will only get better and stronger," Marconi coach De Marigny said. Veterans Maloney, Renaud and Dominic Longo were always very reliable and Chad Gibson was very commanding in the centre, of

defence.

Michael Hawrysiuk, Nahuel Arrarte, Ben Blake and Shane Lyons were arguably the best players for Wollongong on the night. Young livewire striker Tanju Balabanel wasn't given many opportunities by the Marconi defence and veteran captain, Stuart Young, seemed to be struggling.

An interesting spectator was Vlado Zoric, formerly of Marconi and now of Wollongong. The creative midfielder, who is returning to the NSL after a three-month injury spell and stints in Singapore and in Victoria with Heidelberg, could be the type of creative and experienced player that Wollongong requires.

Marconi took the lead in the 8th minute after Maloney headed in after Crews hesitated from a Renaud cross. Wollongong replied in the 15th minute with a Lyons header from a corner but Marconi custodian, Michael Turnbull, saved well just under the crossbar.

Marconi doubled the scoring in the 17th minute when Maloney turned in a ball that Crews only managed to weakly punch clear.

In the 25th minute Carle produced the shot of the game from outside the penalty box but Crews superbly turned away the ball that was destined for the top corner of the net.

In the second half Turnbull saved a nice shot from Hawrysiuk in the 47th minute and the Wolves player then shot the rebound just over the crossbar.

Wollongong struck a goal back in the 72nd minute thanks to Majurovski who scrambled a ball into the bottom corner of the net.



Perth Glory

3



Melbourne Knights

0

By Richard Kreider

Four Perth Glory players made their club debut and emerged amongst the sides' best following a spirited 3-0 win over the Melbourne Knights at Arena Joondalup last Sunday afternoon in the clubs opening game of the new National Soccer League season.

It was a bitter-pill to swallow for the Knights, after keeping the defending champions scoreless until the 82nd minute, when a three-goal burst in the closing stages ultimately tilted the game Glory's way.

It wasn't a pretty win by any stretch of the imagination, but as they say in the classics, it is early days yet. "Let's not lose sight of the fact, it was our first home game of the season, so it is going to take some time before we start to gel," said Glory boss Mich d'Avray. "A 3-nil result is fantastic, I can't ask for anything more," he said. "I thought all the new players were steady. They can all be relatively pleased with their debut for the club."

Knights' coach, Ian Dobson, remained upbeat after the loss, saying he preferred to focus on the plusses. "Perth, to their credit, had plenty of possession, and that was always going to be the case. Our strength and power was lacking a little bit but I still got positives from the game," he said.

"To the credit of the (Knights) play-



Damian Mori opened up his National League goal-scoring account scoring the first for Perth in their three-nil victory over the Melbourne Knights.

ers, they put a lot of work in defensively after what was a poor record in that area last season. We have tightened up since then although you won't see it in a 3-nil defeat."

Perhaps the only blotch on the afternoon was watching the 9,780 crowd begin leaving the ground with still half an hour remaining in the second half. Not because of the game but with the car-parking management which proved a nightmare for an all-sport venue that has just a single entry. This was after people were still flowing through the turnstile 20 minutes into the start of the game.

The Joondalup ground, which is used as an Australian Rules venue, is being employed for two soccer fixtures because of the remodelling of Perth Oval. Perth's fixtures are as a consequence, not friendly, as the next five games are away before the second match at the Arena. This is followed by another three away games before a return to the re-designed Perth Oval on December 6.

Meanwhile, in their endeavours to gel, Glory made too many unforced errors that were not helped by the unfamiliar surroundings and an unseasonal humidity. "They were certainly trying conditions out there today," said Man of the Match Tom Pondeljak. "The ground was a bit slow and not what we are used to but it was just a matter of time before we broke through and snowball from then on."

Damian Mori, who turned 33 today (Tuesday), was his usual annoying self around the Knights danger zone, where on another day, could easily have secured a hat-trick. The first failed attempt came from a 22nd minute counter-strike after debutant Wayne Sroj had placed the lethal forward with just goalkeeper Martin John to beat. This he did but left himself with too tight an angle on an open goal and could only fire the ball into the side-netting.

Mori's second opportunity was a missed penalty five minutes into the

second-half after he himself was upended by John on the edge of the box.

He eventually found the back of the net eight minutes from the end of the game, albeit with a simple tap-in after a long throw from Jamie Coyne was flicked on by defender Shaun Murphy. Perth's second goal came from Pondeljak five minutes further on with a well-placed grass-level strike that beat the 'keeper's left-hand.

Seconds later, and with the Melbourne rearguard now in defensive distress, substitute Adrian Caceres chipped in the third goal to end the game as a contest.

Glory had started the game with Nick Mrdja partnering Mori, since d'Avray wanted to add pace to the firing line. This meant Bobby Despotovski was put on the bench but he eventually replaced a disappointing Mrdja after 65 minutes and immediately made altered the pattern of play.

The visitors had their chances, but most were shaped in the opening period through their promising Solomon Island forward Henry Fa'arodo, who is the third player from that country to play in the NSL. Bill Natsioulas released a long-range missile that required palming away by Jason Petkovic after 20 minutes and former Glory striker Peter Buljan was through six minutes later but he gave Jade North too much time to intercept.

Melbourne's only real opportunity after the break came from a 61st minute free-kick on the face of the box that saw Shaun Murphy lucky to get just a yellow card from referee Eddie Lennie, for flattening substitute Nick Waite when he was almost through. "Other referee's might have seen it differently," said Dobson.

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National Soccer League



| | |
|------------------|---|
| Newcastle United | 2 |
| Northern Spirit | 1 |

By Pano Tagaroulas

Newcastle United registered their second win of the season sending the Novocastrians top of the NSL ladder. However, according to both coaches Northern Spirit were unlucky not to take anything from the game. "I didn't think we deserved it tonight full stop," admitted Crook.

For United Robbie Middleby was given his first start of the season as he replaced Ryan Griffiths. Meanwhile Spirit made two changes following their 3-1 defeat at the hands of the Brisbane Strikers bringing Julian Watts and Dylan Macallister in for Alex Tobin and Vuko Tomasevic.

Newcastle were lucky to escape with all three points as two penalties either side of the break condemned Spirit to their second consecutive loss. The Sydney based side had a penalty of their own in the second half and only the length of the post saved United.

The controversy began in the 1st minute as the home side got off to the best possible start after being awarded the first spot kick of the game. Robbie Middleby latched onto an Esala Masi headed flick before being brought down by Spirit defender Mark Milligan. Referee James Lewis mistakenly booked Noel Spencer for the foul. "He's booked

Noel Spencer when it wasn't even Noel Spencer with the foul," confirmed coach Lawrie McKinna after the match. Jobe Wheelhouse then stepped up to take the kick and calmly fired Newcastle into a 1-0 lead.

Spirit did well to get back into the match after going behind and showed good fighting qualities as they gained the upper hand. Dylan Macallister and Jonathon Richter proved a handful for the United defence with Damien Brown and Adam Griffiths being drawn out of position on a number of occasions.

The away side deservedly capitalised on all their hard work on 28 minutes when they won a corner on the left. Former Dunfermline striker Stuart Petrie swung in the cross for Macallister, whose low shot was spilled back into his path. The youngster made no mistake with the rebound, leveling the scores at 1-1.

Spirit's determination continued into the second half as they looked the more likely of the two sides to score the elusive match winning goal.

Newcastle seemed to have collapsed under pressure after giving away the game's second penalty in the 56th minute. This followed an unnecessary handball from Adam Griffiths who did not seem under pressure from opponents.

Macallister's effort crashed back off the upright, missing an opportunity to give Northern Spirit the lead.

In an attempt to change the game, Ian Crook replaced Greg Owens with the more attack minded Ryan Griffiths in the 63rd minute. The young forward became immediately involved as he came within inches of putting United into the lead. His downward header was directed narrowly wide of the keeper's left post.

All of Spirit's hard work in getting themselves back into the game was undone as a dubious penalty was awarded on 76 minutes. The ball appeared to have struck the Mark Milligan's knee only for the referee to point to the spot. Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna was adamant that the ball did not touch his hand and said, "He's thrust the ball forward with his knee and it's gone twenty to twenty five metres." Despite the controversial circumstances eighteen year old Wheelhouse dispatched the ball into the back of the net giving United a 2-1 lead against the run of play.

In the process the home-grown midfielder propelled himself to the top of the NSL goalscoring charts with his third strike of the new season.

Jobe Wheelhouse continued to play well in the centre of midfield following an impressive debut season in the NSL.

For Northern Spirit Macallister looked the pick of the bunch despite his penalty miss on 56 minutes.

"He shouldn't be guilty about missing the penalty because he's done well," said McKinna.

Despite losing, the Spirit coach felt confident that the club could turn the corner as he said, "I'm going a lot more confident into the game against Olympic than I was coming to this one."



Spirit's Alex Wilkinson shown beating Robbie Middleby for the ball during last week's clash at the Energy Australia Stadium.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Brisbane Strikers | 1 |
| Sydney Olympic | 1 |

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers homecoming celebrations to soccer headquarters at Perry Park were put on ice after a 1-all draw against a determined Sydney Olympic last Saturday night.

The Strikers have spent the past eight years playing at rugby league and rugby union headquarters at Suncorp Stadium and Ballymore before making the bold move to return to its old stamping ground at Perry Park.

With borrowed seating to meet the national league criteria, the Strikers only managed to attract a small crowd of 2,625 to its first home game, but at least the foundations are in place for a true soccer stadium in years to come.

It's cliché, but the match was a game of two halves with the Strikers easily dominating the opening period while Sydney Olympic staged a late rally to grab the equaliser and share the points after the break.

The Strikers took a deserved 1-0

lead in the 54th minute following a superb 20 metre free kick from midfielder David Pilic.

Pilic's shot deceived Olympic keeper and man of the match Peco Trajceviski in flight and took a rebound off the far upright into the net.

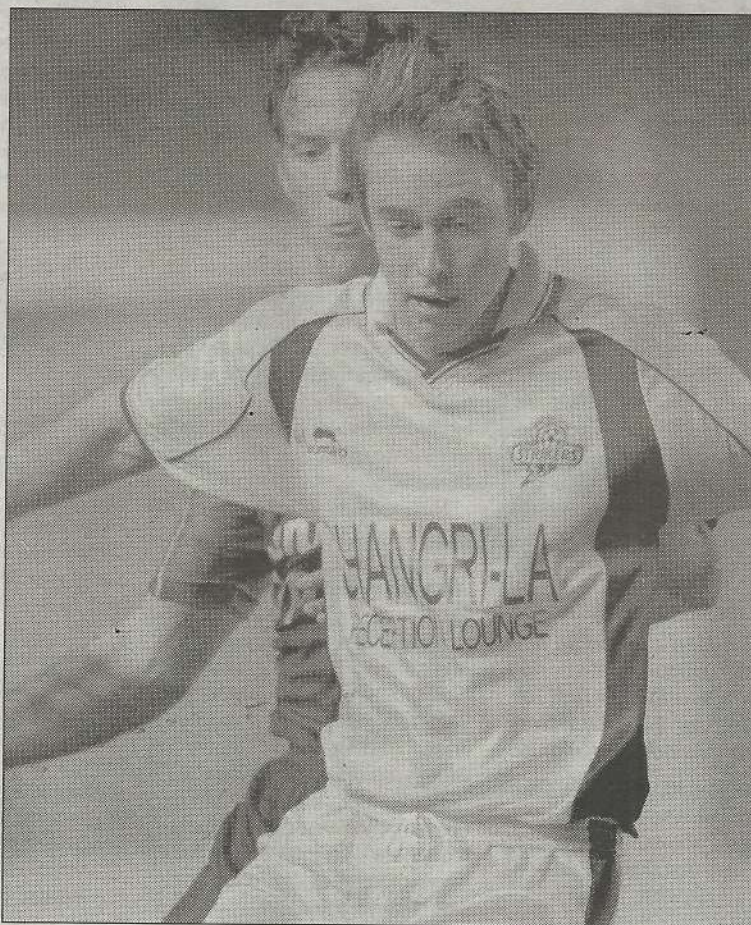
Sydney Olympic's equaliser came 10 minutes later when Ante Juric put striker Jim Bakis into the clear before beating Brisbane's keeper Jason Kearton with a delicate chip.

The Strikers could easily have been up another goal or two and had the match in their keeping at the break had Trajceviski and some bad luck stand in its way.

The Strikers had the best of the chances in the first period and could have gone to the break with a handy lead.

On the half hour striker Luke Morley had a powerful left foot shot deflected onto the post while midfielder Peter Grierson had two chances in the dying seconds of the first half to give the home side a lead.

Grierson's first attempt came from a corner but his well struck header



Joshua Rose played a sterling match for the Strikers last week.

rebounded off Trajceviski.

Grierson then followed up the rebound but struck his next shot over the crossbar from close range.

Trajceviski later denied the Strikers' another opportunity to break the deadlock, bravely snatching a cross from Steve Fitzsimmons off the feet of nippy frontman Josh Rose.

Both sides started tentatively in the opening period but the home side eventually got on top of Olympic in midfield after Matt McKay and skipper Grierson exerted their superiority.

The Strikers' nippy frontmen of Morley, who scored a double in his national league debut in the opening round, and Rose looked dangerous on several occasions.

While the Strikers' best chances came in the first half, Olympic had its best opportunity in the first minute when Bakis struck a shot which shaded the wrong side of the upright.

Both sides had chances in the dying stages to snatch victory with former Queensland Lions striker Michael Baird snapping a shot over the crossbar with five minutes remaining while Morley could have walked off a hero had his shot not taken a rebound off Trajceviski.

BYE - SOUTH MELBOURNE

Soccer Brings Cultures Together

By John Economos

The mighty Carss Park 10A's have been undefeated in the St George competition for the last three years scoring over 200 goals and conceding only 10 during this period.

Captained by Jonathan Ahladiotis they are currently into the final eight of the Champions of Champions Competition 2003.

Not only is the team a true multi-national team composed of mixed national origins such as Greek, Cypriot, Italian, Maltese, Lebanese,

Indian, South African, Macedonian, Taiwanese and Australian, the team also has a mixture of male and female players. This team reflects the true aim of sport, of bringing all nations and cultures together.

Carss Park 10A's are coached by the dedicated Gregory Ahladiotis.

Last Sunday morning Carss Park defeated Emu Plains representing the Nepean at Cooks Park 0-1 with a Golden Goal scored by Kieren Beard.

On Sunday week Carss Park will meet the winners of Illawarra or Macarthur in the semi-finals of the Champions of Champions.



Carss Park Soccer Club 10A

(L-R Back Row): Manager: Eva Koulizakis, Paul Koulizakis, Jordy Bergh, Johnathan Ahladiotis, Gavin Grewal, James Kotsopoulos, Johnny Ahladiotis. Coach Greg Ahladiotis.

(L-R Front Row): Peter Dimitropoulos, Kosta Ahladiotis, Sam Dagher, Brendan Hancock, Aleksander Gruevski, Alexander Hardigan, Natalie Difrancesco. Absent: Kieren Beard.

BANKSTOWN DISTRICT AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Under 12/14/16 Girls Rep Trials

★ 2004 SEASON ★

KINCH RESERVE

Sunday 26th October - 10am

Laurie Simpson 9728 1192

BANKSTOWN DISTRICT AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Under 11/12 Rep Trials

Sunday 12th October

Under 11: 9-10.30am Under 12: 11-12.30pm

COLEMAN PARK

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DIRECTOR OF COACHING FOR SEASON 2004

2004 REPRESENTATIVE COACHES

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GRANVILLE RAGE

WSL Ladies:

Women's State League 1st Division (non playing)

Women's State League U/21

Boys & Girls Youth

U/13 Youth League

U/14 Youth League

U/15 Youth League

U/16 Youth League

U/18 Youth League

U/12 Girls Youth

U/14 Girls Youth

U/16 Girls Youth

Junior Boys

U/11 Metropolitan League

U/12 Metropolitan League

WESTERN RAGE

Men's State League Division 1 1st Grade (non playing)

Men's State League U/20

Please send details regarding previous coaching experience and current level of qualifications by 6th October 2003 to:

GRANVILLE RAGE

PO BOX 3493, PARRAMATTA NSW 2153

Contact: Vic Zappia 0418 234 768 or Michael Briggs 0412 009 986

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Tigers Football Club Inc



Club Inc

2004



Premier Youth League Player Trials

To be held at Leichhardt Oval No.2

Mary Street, Leichhardt (Next to the Leichhardt Aquatic Centre)

at the following times

| Team | Day | Dates | Start | Finish |
|----------|-------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Under 13 | Mon | 13,20,27 Oct. 3 Nov | 6.00pm | 8.00pm |
| Under 14 | Tues | 14,21,28 Oct. 4 Nov | 6.00pm | 8.00pm |
| Under 15 | Wed | 15,22,29 Oct. 5 Nov | 6.00pm | 8.00pm |
| Under 16 | Thurs | 16,23,30 Oct. 6 Nov | 6.00pm | 8.00pm |
| Under 18 | Fri | 17,24,31 Oct. 7 Nov | 6.00pm | 8.00pm |
| Under 13 | Sat | 18,25 Oct. 1, 8 Nov | 9.00am | 10.30am |
| Under 14 | Sat | 18,25 Oct. 1, 8 Nov | 10.30am | 12.00pm |
| Under 15 | Sat | 18,25 Oct. 1, 8 Nov | 12.00pm | 1.30pm |
| Under 16 | Sat | 18,25 Oct. 1, 8 Nov | 1.30pm | 3.00pm |
| Under 18 | Sat | 18,25 Oct. 1, 8 Nov | 3.00pm | 4.30pm |

FOR ALL ENQUIRES PLEASE PHONE THE CLUB'S 24 HR INFOLINE 9560 5414

BELMORE HERCULES SOCCER CLUB

BELMORE HERCULES SOCCER CLUB FIRST DIVISION

2004 TRIALS DATES

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------|
| Under 13s 1st Division Youth League: | Tuesdays 14,21 & 28 October and 4 November 2003 | 6-8pm |
| Under 14s 1st Division Youth League: | Tuesdays 14,21 & 28 October and 4 November 2003 | 6-8pm |
| Under 15s 1st Division Youth League: | Tuesdays 14,21 & 28 October and 4 November 2003 | 6-8pm |
| Under 16s 1st Division Youth League: | Tuesdays 14,21 & 28 October and 4 November 2003 | 6-8pm |
| Under 18s 1st Division Youth League: | Thursdays 16,23 & 30 October and 6 November 2003 | 6-8pm |
| also | | |
| Under 20s 1st Division Federation: | Thursdays 16,23 & 30 October and 6 November 2003 | 6-8pm |
| First Grade 1st Division Federation: | Thursdays 16,23 & 30 October and 6 November 2003 | 6-8pm |

VENUE:

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ENQUIRIES TO:

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EMAIL:

damianfokas@optusnet.com.au

All Trials will be supervised by the Club's Director of Coaching

Mr George Lazarou

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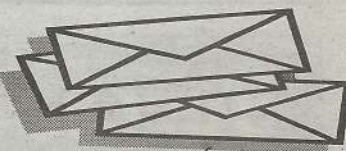
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Letters to the Editor



GIVE GRELLA A GO!



Vince Grella has been outstanding for Empoli and should be given a chance with the Socceroos.

Dear Sir,

I think it's about time Socceroo's coach Frank Farina gave Empoli's Vince Grella a go in the first eleven, he is a great player who can toughen up our midfield.

He is Australia's Patrick Vieira or Edgar Davids.

A defensive midfielder with a great passing game and an eye for goal.

Grella has been playing good consistent football and has been a regular starter for Empoli in the Serie A.

I find it hard to understand why coach Farina plays friendlies but only chooses to make a couple of substitutions.

It was fair enough against England, but in the most recent match against Jamaica Farina made only two substitutes.

Why not test out some of the other players, give them a go. How will you find out how they will fair at international level if they are sitting on the bench warming up the seats?

And then when he does make a substitution he only gives them a run in the last ten minutes. How are you going to impress anyone in the space of ten minutes?

So come on Farina test out the players we have and give Grella a go!

Mark Itzo
Chatswood, NSW.

GUNNER SHAME

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my disgust and outrage at

the behavior of the Arsenal players and manager during and after the match against

Manchester United.

This kind of behavior, which certainly brings the game into disrepute, has been an all too familiar sight in the club under Arsene Wenger's guidance. I hope the FA do something about these absolute imbeciles, and give them a hefty fine or suspension for their part in the fracas.

For the Frenchman to come out and bag Van Nistelrooy the way he did is completely hypocritical considering the poor disciplinary record of the team he has presided over for the past years. He has done little to turn players such as Keown, who reminds me of a street thug, into a class outfit.

Looking at the incident on TV, all Van Nistelrooy did was stand back as Vieira lashed out at him—he did not dive or even gesture for a yellow or red card. What Arsenal did in response was ten times worse.

I was absolutely disgusted by Keown, Lauren, Cole and Lehmann's intimidation. They have absolutely no self control and Van Nistelrooy, to his credit, simply walked away.

I'm sure that Keown, Lehmann and Wenger will get their comeuppance when Ferguson and Van Nistelrooy lift the premier-ship trophy with glee come next May!

David Hanna.
Chester Hill, NSW.



Arsenal's Martin Keown shown blasting Dutch striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy.

DUTCH DILEMMA

Dear Sir,

Over the years the Netherlands have had the side to go all the way on the European and World stage but have failed on many occasions.

In the early 90's they had the likes of the great Marco Van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit, Ronald Koeman you would think with a team with these sorts of characters they would go well but they failed.

Late 90's the De Boer twins Frank and Ronald, Dennis Bergkamp, Marc Overmars but failed to impress at the 1994 World Cup and Euro 1996.

Can they relieve themselves at next years Euro 2004 in Portugal. Well they definitely have the team to do it.

They have an array of great strikers to choose such

as Patrick Kluivert, Ruud Van Nistelrooy, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Roy Makaay, and Pierre Van Hooijdonk. Great attacking and defensive midfielders like Edgar Davids, Clarence Seedorf, Mark Van Bommel, and young guns Andy van der Mayde and Rafael van der Vaart. When it comes to the defence only Jaap Stam comes to mind can this be the Orange boys weakest link, their defence?

On paper the Dutch can put together a great first 11 which can go well in Europe 2004.

There is so much great individual talent. But I guess we will have to sit and wait.

But it is a mystery to me why a country which produces so many great players can't combine to go well.

John Voozo
Castle Cove, NSW.

NO FAVS IN NSL

Dear Sir,

The first round of matches in the NSL has indicated that the season will not be the cakewalk for Perth and Parramatta that many people expected.

Up to five teams have a realistic chance of claiming the title, with other clubs such as Sydney Olympic and Adelaide United still can call upon decent squads.

I have always tried to take a positive stance on Australian soccer, and I certainly do not think that this season will be a total write off, as many people have suggested.

Most clubs have balanced squads capable of knocking off anyone on their day.

I'd like to encourage supporters to head out to the NSL matches as the sport begins to take steps towards major upheaval and improvement.

Stanley Pauls
Newcastle, NSW.

AUSSIES HITTING FORM

Dear Sir,

How good it is to see Aussies on the scoresheet in Europe?

The exploits of Bresciano, Emerton and Skoko this week have helped lift the profile of Australian players, and clubs will now be more willing to invest in Australian players because of their ability to adapt to the country in which they play.

Bresciano, in my opinion, has just about assured himself of a starting berth for the World Cup qualifiers next year. He can play in a variety of positions, and he has the energy to track back and work for

the team, while he provides vital ammunition up front.

I envisage him playing a key role alongside Kewell in support of Viduka in attack. With Emerton also in scoring form from the right of midfield, the Aussies have a great core of players who can take it to the opposition.

Frank Farina now needs to work on his central mid-field combination and the defence and the Socceroos will be right for the next challenge that awaits them.

Robert Popovic.
Auburn, NSW.



Marco Bresciano has caused shock waves in the Italian Serie A.

WELL DONE BECKS

Dear Sir,

As a fan of Real Madrid, and perhaps more to the point, David Beckham, I was pleased to read about the

performance of the team last weekend.

What the England captain has shown is that hard work goes a long way in this game. I have never really associated Beckham with midfield battles, he is much too pretty

for that, but the last few games he has played has made me reassess his abilities.

The transfer of Makelele is big news, but Beckham and Cambiasso have shown that constant pressing in the

opposition half can take a lot of pressure of the defence and give Ronaldo, Figo and Zidane the opportunity to flourish.

I think that the time spent in Spain will help lift Beckham's game from being

based around his crossing and free kick taking to a more central role, where he can dictate the play.

Helen Medeiros.
Drummoyle, NSW.

ADRIANO - BRAZIL'S BEST



Adriano - better than Ronaldo?

Dear Sir,

Adriano of Parma would have to be soccer's next big thing. He is a complete striker and I feel he is as good if not better than his Brazilian counterpart Ronaldo.

No matter what team he plays against he is a potent threat to the oppositions defence.

He has the speed, power, strength, and one thing Ronaldo doesn't have, the aerial prowess to score and make goals out of nothing.

I have nothing against Ronaldo I think he is a great player, and Brazil is blessed with producing so many great players and will always be able to field a side to compete with any nation in the world.

Adriano is a great player who is still young and has a lot to learn still but he would have to be one of the world's most promising strikers.

Alf Tomagara
Northbridge, NSW.

POWER'S EXPECTATIONS

Dear Sir,

Could Parramatta Power be the Real Madrid or Chelsea of the NSL?

The Power have recruited 9 good solid players during the off season. All the players are of a high standard, the new additions Daniel Beltrame, Travis Dodd Simon Colosimo, Andre Gumprecht Ante Milicic, Andrew Durante, Clint

Bolton Lucas Pantelis, Fernando Rech are all experienced and great players.

But in the first hit out of the NSL season, the Power's faced South Melbourne but the star studded line up couldn't prevent the game from being a scoreless draw.

Have the Power wasted money and time signing all these players keeping in my there will be no Parramatta

Power existent next year.

Or is it the case of the side needing time to gel.

With the existing players they have plus the new purchased players, there shouldn't be any excuse really for Power not be in the top 3 at the business end of the season.

Rob Pataney
Chiswick, NSW.



David Beckham has settled in nicely with new side Real Madrid.

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRIO

It's Nige and Derek here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarrio. Each week we give you the news and our views from around the grounds of The EPL.

Any news this week cannot surpass the first managerial sacking of the season. Who can claim this honour? None other than the Tottenham 'Hapless' Hotspurs. Glen Hoddle gets the bullet. Not before time I say, as an ex-spurs fan...Derek couldn't give a toss!

Let's take a look at the career of the enigmatic Glen Hoddle. This guy was the ultimate, silky midfielder in the 80's. He made Becks look like a Sunday park player. This is in the days when the record transfer fee was 1 million pounds. Spurs were the total football side of the old 1st Division and boasted World Cup winners: Ozzie Ardiles and Ricky Villa. At club level, Hoddle was in a master-class, but in true POMIE fashion, his flair was never appreciated and he never reached the heights he should have. Spurs placed him on the transfer market in the mid

80's and no one wanted to sign him. They said he couldn't do this and doesn't do that. Monaco snapped him up on a free and he did all of the above and won the French player of the year. Hoddle was a great player.

Unfortunately with great players, comes the delusion that they will make great coaches. But players find it difficult to make the transition; only one has really made a success of both trades- Brian Clough. He scored approx 240 goals in 264 games before a broken leg ended his playing career. As coach, he was a Messiah, taking unfashionable clubs such as Derby County, to the league title and Nottingham Forest to a League title and 2 consecutive European Cups.

Glen, however, had something Cloughie always craved but never got...the England job. Before he got the country's top job, he served a short apprenticeship at Swindon Town. He didn't rock the world but he is Glen Hoddle and he could play football. He certainly rocked the world of Cuddly Ken Bates. He gave Glen the gaffer's job at a club that used to be called Chelsea. His session at

Stamford Bridge brought in no trophies whatsoever. He did make his name by bringing in players like Rudd Gullet. The FA started to take notice and duly gave Hod the Top Job.

Banana TV



Premiership Bizarrio

Then things went really pear shaped as the '98 World Cup approached and Glen was making changes to his backroom staff with the addition of, faith healer, Gladys Avery. The faith healer then proceeded to get more press than the manager and was no doubt responsible for leaving Gazza at home. We think she could have even picked the side for

a couple of games, convincing Glen that divine intervention was the answer, not football knowledge or any people management abilities. After blundering their way through the qualifying rounds, England go out to the Old Enemy, Argentina.

He returned from the World Cup a changed man with a changed religious outlook and promptly announced that people in wheel chairs were paying for sins from a previous life. The whole country goes nuts. Hoddle quits the job after being put in an untenable situation by the faith healer.

The upside of making a balls-up of a job in football, is that you will always be offered another job. This was the case as Glen made his way to the sunny south coast with sidekick, John Gormless but minus Gladys Avery. The dynamic duo had moderate success, steering The Saints away from relegation.

Once again Glen fools the football world of his managerial abilities when he and sidekick are offered the Spurs job after George Graham bored the pants off everyone for a

few years.

Glen followed on where George left off, preserving Spurs mid table position and playing a brand of football that would make you turn your TV off. The 3-1 home defeat by, ironically, the Saints was the last nail required for David Levy to pull the plug. Since then, every man and his dog that played under Hoddle has been slagging him off. The crux of all the whingeing centres on the fact that Glen has no people skills.

We don't think Glen will get another job this time. He will be thrown on the football manager's scrap heap with George Graham. What a sad end to a career that once promised so much.

There endith another Bizarrio week in the Premiership. Tune your computer into www.bananatv.com for all the latest bollocks

See you here next week!

*Nige & Derek
Premiership Bizarrio*

S O C C E R W O M A N

MATILDAS SENT PACKING

Africa's reigning Women's Footballer of the Year, Alberta Sackey, showed all of her class in claiming a brace to hand the Black Queens of Ghana their first ever FIFA Women's World Cup victory - a 2-1 triumph over Australia at the first USA 2003 match at Portland's PGE Park.

Heather Garriock pulled a second half goal back for the Matildas, but it was not enough for Oceania's representatives, who are left bottom of Group D with just a single point. Ghana head home as well, finishing third, but the sweet taste of their first finals victory may sustain them on their way back to Africa.

With Sackey back in the side after failing to start against Russia, the Ghanaians hit out the brighter of the two right from the start. But it was the Matildas who got the first real scoring chance when Garriock fired an 18-yard

snapshot straight into Memunatu Sulemana's mid-section (3').

The Africans though, continued to press in search of their first goal at these finals. Patience Sackey fired one just over at the back post on the end of a well-flighted corner (8').

Mavis Dgajmah had a great chance to get the Ghanaians on the board when she ran on to a fine through ball from Patience Sackey. As she raced in one-on-one with Melissa Barbieri she slammed the ball off the crossbar (15'). And just seconds later Patience Sackey fired a left-footed shot that also splattered off the woodwork after beating the Australian keeper (16').

The Black Queens continued to throw everything forward, playing their best football of USA 2003.

The Matildas were looking to hit out on the counter. Kelly Golebiowski's long ball from midfield picked out Danielle

Small, who fired right at Sulemana (28').

Just one minute later, Ghana charged up field and forced Barbieri into two fine saves in quick succession. A fine Alberta Sackey shot from long range was pushed over (29') and then from the resulting corner she did well to hold on to Sackey's driving header (30').

Alberta Sackey finally found the back of the net after taking the ball off of substitute Bryony Duus. Racing forward, she fired a 23-yard cracker past Barbieri to the top corner (1-0, 34').

And the striker grabbed one more after firing a close-range shot straight at Barbieri. The brave Australian keeper got down well to save, but spilled the ball straight back to the African Player of the Year, who made no mistake the second time around to close out the first half scoring (2-0, 39').

The Matildas, knowing they would need a win for survival,

threw everything into a frenzied attack. Golebiowski fired a shot from 23 yards early, but it sailed harmlessly over Sulemana's goal (48').

But Garriock raced through to grab her second goal of the finals when Golebiowski picked her out at the far post after a bit of fine individual skill. After a beautiful diago-

nal ball, the striker smacked the ball on the first touch low and to the far post. Poor Sulemana could do nothing but watch (2-1, 61').

Duus tried a hopeful shot from way out to get the Matildas even and make up for her earlier miscue. But Sulemana did well to smother the shot and keep the Africans

on target for their first finals win (71').

Alberta Sackey continued to weave her magic as the half wore on. After a long, looping run out of midfield, the African fired a wicked shot from 22 yards. But Barbieri did well to grab it at the second attempt (76').

After a few more chances

for Ghana, Australia's Golebiowski missed out on a clear opportunity in the dying moments. As the ball slipped past the far post, the Australians must have seen their quarter-final hopes fade into nothing (91').

And in the end, the scoreline stood and both sides took their final bows at USA 2003.



STATE & DEVELOPMENT SQUAD COACHES & MANAGERS — 2004

The Victorian Soccer Federation is seeking applications for the following coaching and managers positions:

State Teams

- Boys Under 15 and 16 (Metropolitan and Country)
- Girls Under 14, 15 and 17 (Metropolitan and Country)

Development Squads

- Boys Under 12, 13 and 14 (Metropolitan and Country)

Regional (Metropolitan Only) Teams

- Girls Under 12, 14, 16 and 18 North West Region
- Girls Under 12, 14, 16 and 18 South East Region

Minimum qualification required for coaching positions is Level 2 (Senior Licence). Send applications in writing to:

Ian Greener
Coaching and Development Manager
Victorian Soccer Federation
PO Box 824,
South Melbourne VIC 3205
Fax: (03) 9682 9777
E-mail: igreener@soccervictoria.org.au
Enquires: (03) 9685 8708
Closing date: 17 October 2003

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VSF



Heather Garriock starred once again for the Matildas but it wasn't enough to see them progress to the next stages of the World Cup.

Cause and affect - it's all red to the ref

By Mark van Aken

Let's get philosophical. If you try to hit someone but don't connect, are you less guilty than if you had? If you connect with air rather than break a bone are you less at fault? This question is as relevant on a local primary school playground as it is in our own NSL or any other league be it soccer, basketball or rugby league.

Some sports allow you to deliberately injure and hurt opposition players. Insert a picture of Brett Lee or any American Football linebacker here. In the beautiful game of course you cannot. Not only are you in trouble when you deliberately tackle or strike someone, but also if you do so recklessly, which is once again the same as with any of Australia's various football codes. In fact much of the thuggery associated with Union, League and in particular Aussie Rules in years gone by has been eradicated. Today an AFL player is far more likely to land himself in hot water for something 'reckless' than brutal.

Last weekend there were some nasty scenes in the English Premier League match between heavy weights Arsenal and Manchester United. Once again there are different levels of what is and isn't acceptable or the norm between sports.

Gunners strong man Patrik Vieira was felled by Dutch maestro Ruud van Nistleroy near the Man U penalty box. While still on the ground, a less than impressed Vieira kicked his boot out towards van Nistleroy in disgust. The boot failed to come within 3 inches of the Red Devils player but he moved in a spectacular fashion to apparently avoid the path of the boot. In reality he was probably never in danger of being struck. That the referee was within metres no doubt brought out the theatrical side of

van Nistleroy. Subsequently Vieira received his second yellow and was shown the way to showers and depending on whether or not you have some white on the sleeves of your red shirt, you will be nominating Ruud for an Oscar.

The scenes were reminiscent of 'Bench Spice' David Beckham in France 98 when he so famously kicked his heel up against Argentina. It was after a nasty tackle that 'Becks' lashed out by kicking at his opponent. He made some incidental contact and was marched immediately. The furore in England was enormous and Beckham had his life threatened more than once. He had lost England the World Cup - or more realistically a chance at it - screamed the fans. For Beckham there was little sympathy, kicking a player is a send off - case closed. But if he doesn't connect is it as bad?

Many argue the punishment should fit the crime when handing out suspensions. Others like Liverpool gaffer Gerard Houllier subscribe to a more 'eye for an eye' philosophy.

At law, the penalties for attempting to do something are almost always lighter than if you had actually done it. Should this be the case in soccer, or any sport for that matter? Only a fortnight ago Qantas Socceroos and Blackburn Rovers defender Lucas Neill laid a 'tough' tackle on Liverpool's Jamie Carragher. The English media savagely attacked Neill for what was at best a 'careless' challenge, at worst a 'disgraceful' one. Carragher's leg was broken and he is unlikely to see much of the rest of the recently opened season.

Once again, the devil is in the detail. Did Neill actually want to hurt the Scouser? Was it premeditated? In a recent interview with Sydney station 2KY Neill said no.

"I'm not going to go in to hurt anybody, I'm going to go in and tack-

le and win the ball for my team and I stand by that.... If there's ever a tackle to be made, I'll go in for it". This once again leads us back to the theory that the majority of challenges in the modern era of most sports are 'reckless' rather than malicious. Is Neill at fault because his tackle was dangerous or because he broke Carragher's leg? If he tackles and Carragher gets up unscathed is he any less guilty?

A fuming Houllier was quoted in the Liverpool Echo as saying "In France there was a case where a player injured another with a bad tackle, which forced him out of the game for two months, the French FA banned the player responsible for the same length of time." Draconian? Yes. Reasonable? Perhaps.

It all comes down to intent. Referees always have the tough ask of not only officiating the tangible things, balls going over lines, players on or off side but also the intangibles, the mind games that players play. Diving in the box is the most constant source of concern. Referees are asked to delve into the minds of players and analyse what they are thinking. Some times body language makes this obvious, other times it does not. van Nistleroy jumped half a foot off the ground to avoid a Vieira boot that perhaps would never have arrived. On the flip side Vieira did kick out his foot with great venom.

As a result of his theatrics, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger claims that the Man U and Netherlands striker is not "a fair player". Red Devils supremo Alec Ferguson has his own version of events where van Nistleroy was moving in legitimate fear for his own safety. Clearly Wenger thinks attempting to strike is grossly different from actually striking. Ferguson clearly doesn't. I say toma - to, you say tom - ato.....the good news is we don't have to call the whole thing off. We just have to live with the vagaries of football - whatever the code.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2003-2004 NORTHERN DIVISION ROUND 2

LEAGUE LADDER — ROUND 2

| | P | W | D | B | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Wollongong Wolves | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Northern Spirit | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| AIS | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| Canberra Deakin | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Sydney Olympic | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Newcastle United | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Brisbane Strikers | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Marconi Stallions | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Sydney United | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| ACTAS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parramatta Power | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| QAS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2003

Newcastle United0 Northern Spirit0

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2003

Brisbane Strikers1 Sydney Olympic2
(Scuderi 72') (Karavatakis 59', Browne 72')

Marconi Stallions0 Wollongong Wolves ...1
(Austin 47')

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2003

Sydney United0 AIS4
(Nedeljkovic 4', Bosnar 22', Tadrosse 74', Deegan 78')

TBA MATCH

QAS Vs Parramatta Power

BYE — ACTAS
BYE — Canberra Deakin

FIXTURES • ROUND 3

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 2003

Parramatta Power Vs AIS
Time: 4.10 pm
Venue: Parramatta Stadium

Marconi Stallions Vs Newcastle United
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: Marconi Stadium

Northern Spirit Vs Sydney Olympic
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: Christie Park

DEFERRED MATCH— SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2003

Canberra Deakin Vs QAS
Time: 3.30 pm
Venue: McKellar Soccer Centre

TBA MATCH

Wollongong Wolves Vs ACTAS
Time: TBA
Venue: TBA

BYE — Brisbane Strikers
BYE — Sydney United

Newcastle Utd vs Northern Spirit

Newcastle United Squad:
1 Willis, Thomas (gk) - 5
4 Griffiths, Adam - 5
5 Thomas, Scott - 7
7 Owens, Greg (63+) - 7
10 Johnson, Mitchell (85+) - 5
11 Tsekenis, Peter - 7
13 Blagojevic, Milan - 7
14 Wheelhouse, Jobe - 8
17 Masi, Esala - 4
21 Brown, Damien - 4
22 Middleby, Robert - 8
Subs:
20 Perosh, John (gk)
8 Wilson, Mark (85+) - 6
9 Griffiths, Ryan (63+) - 7
12 Mitchell, Josh

Northern Spirit Squad:
1 Henderson, Paul (gk) - 5
2 Watts, Julian - 7
3 O'Sullivan, Wayne - 8
4 Spencer, Noel - 7
8 Ferguson, Ian - 7
10 Macallister, Dylan - 8
11 Richter, Jonathon (79+) - 7
12 Hutchinson, John - 6
17 Petrie, Stuart (76+) - 6
18 Wilkinson, Alex - 6
33 Milligan, Mark - 5

Subs:
30 Rex, Jacob (gk)
9 Kwasnik, Adam (76+) - 6
22 Osman, Matthew
25 Obied, Omar (79+) - 6

Brisbane Strikers vs Sydney Olympic

Brisbane Strikers: Kearton (7), Dodd (7), Steffanuto (7), McCloughan (7), McLaren (7), Grierson (8), Fitzsimmons (7), Pilic (8), McKay (7), Rose (8), Morley (7).
Subs: Brain (6), Moon (6)
Olympic: Trajceviski (8), Kohler (7), Juric (7), Schirripa (7), Cardoza (7), Alilovic (6), Bakis (8), Bojic (7), Karlovic (7), Ishida (8), Caravella (7).
Sub: Fyfe (6), Baird (7)

Marconi Stallions vs Wollongong Wolves

MARCONI: Turnbull 7, Longo 7, Gibson 7, Thwaite 6, Casserly 6, Last 7, Maloney 8, Renaud 8, Carle 9, Harris 6 (Brosque 6), Spiteri 6
WOLLONGONG: Crews 6, Jurij 7, Dragas 7, Blake 7, Hughes 6, Arrarte 7, Hawrysiuk 8, Lyons 8, Nwagazi 5, Young 5, Balabanel 6 (Majurovski 6)

Sydney United vs Kingz

Sydney United: Reddy 7, Haliti 6 (Doumanis 8), Cunico 6, Vrkic 7, Langdon 9, Huxley 6, Babic 6 (Ozbey 5), Collina 7, Heffernan 6, Rudan 7, Zmire 8.

Kingz: Nicholson 7, Rayner 6, Midtsian 7 (Rowley 7), Collins 7, Tambouras 7, Jackson 7, Christie 5 (Martin 6), Campbell 6, Ngata 7, Young 6, Schjervén 5 (Beldham 6)

Perth Glory vs Melbourne Knights

Glory:
7 Petkovic
6 Horsley
6 Hassell
8 Murphy
7 Shroj
5 Mrdja
7 North
7 Byrnes
8 Pondeljak
8 Mori
7 Coyne

Knights:
7 John
7 Zilic
6 Vargas
7 Plorkowski
6 Buljan
7 Marth
6 Erdogan
5 Natsiouas
7 Fa'ardo
7 Pelikan
6 Pantelidis

Rasic's Haunted By The Past, Dreams of The Future



Mr '1974' Rale Rasic

By Jude Ogbonnaya

Former Marconi Stallions Sweat Merchant, Rale Rasic is being haunted by a stunning blunder he made almost 30 years ago.

With a heavy heart, the mentally tough 67-year-old coach has confessed how he rejected two lucrative International offers that could have propelled his career to greater heights after his 1974 World Cup finals achievement in Germany.

"The biggest mistake in my career is that I did not take over Iran after the 1974 World Cup when they approached me. I had incredible relationship with them," he said.

"I also made a big mistake when I rejected Athletic Madrid. I regret these mistakes."

Rasic who claims he failed to consider these offers "because I fell in love with this country" has an enviable record in being the only coach to take the Socceroos to a World Cup soccer finals.

He however praised Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari who dumped Brazil for Portugal after winning the Korea/Japan 2002 World Cup trophy for "taking a very good decision. He left when the ovation was loud; otherwise he would have had problems"

Blaming Soccer Australia "for adopting negative

attitude for the system" the man who is fondly dubbed "Mr. 1974" plans to re-launch himself to the International Stage.

"I'm not inspired by the club football in Australia. I want international challenge. I want to be at the helm of affairs in a country because that's the highest level in coaching" he said.

"Some people are made to be able to act on the biggest show on earth. Some people can not. I've the mental capacity to do this. I'm a coach, not a showman. I believe I've the mental capacity in handling people who are capable of playing in the highest level.

"It will be 30 years in November 13 this year when we qualified for the world cup finals. It's a record. This makes me the best soccer coach in Australia. So I'm still very, very relevant to the system.

"Australia under me finished 13th among 16 nations in the ratings. That was a phenomenal success. Coaches like Rudi Gutendorf could not succeed in a good country like Australia. Terry Venables who was a very high profile coach could not too. And Frank Farina, with God's given players failed miserably.

"My team was a champion of Asia. Terry was 5th in Asia. I introduced three times daily training while we were in camp. I made players to be professionals in their attitude. I introduced sports psychology in this country. But unfortunately, when you are a revolutionary person, you have enemies.

"If I tell you that I don't want to return as Socceroos coach, I will be telling you lies. If anybody tells you that he does not want to be the Prime Minister of a country, and he's a politician, he's either lying or does not have ambition. This also applies to coaching.

Rasic also said that "being a national coach is better than being the Prime Minister of a country. Politicians are not liked. But if you're a coach and you achieve you will be cherished by the people. Look at Bora Milutinovic. He took China to the last world cup finals of 32 nations and automatically became a national hero.

"I still hope to do what Bora is doing. Age is not a problem. I'm 67 and if I'm 87, I will still be the same. Zagalo who is 72 was recently appointed the technical director of Brazil. Bobby Robinson is 71 and still handling Newcastle United. Trapattoni is 65.

"We are in an age of maturity and I understand what demands are at the top level. Some people can not motivate themselves at the highest level.

"Age is a problem for someone who is ill. My mind controls my body. I'm in a prime maturity where I can make good decision and good judgment. The higher you go, the higher you are motivated. My biggest motivation is Mario Zagalo. People who are not part of the global world cannot coach global teams."

While on another topic of discussion with Rasic, instability and lack of sound youth policy are the bane of soccer development in Australia, the former Socceroos coach, Rale Rasic has said.

Rasic bemoaned the administration of the national soccer league (NSL) club sides and advised that "we must adopt super youth policy" for the game to improve in the country.

He said: "Culture of continuity does not exist in our system. The problem of soccer in Australia is instability.

"The meaning of football house or academy in Australia is to export players abroad. That is the clubs basic objective. It's wrong. The academy should be a policy to provide production line for teams.

"No club has football school of European standard. Our clubs are only interested in buying the players at the close of every season and players take joy in moving around. They don't belong to teams for long and clubs don't have to buy players all the time

"Clubs should give the players time to mature and stop sudden change of their teams yearly. The players should be treated as members of the family, cared for, with good upbringing and good education.

"We have the best facilities but there's no advance thinking in our clubs. The passion for the game is here with us but one does not feel it. Most of the big names in Manchester United come from the team's youth policy."

Rasic also blamed clubs for discouraging sponsors.

"Sponsors do not want temporary investment. They do not stay long in the clubs because there's not stability of players. In fact, the poor administrative system dissuades sponsorship and teams cannot do without sponsors.

"Sharp sponsored Manchester United for 15 years and the team also stayed with Umbro for 20 years. That showed stability in sponsorship and players.

U20 AMBITION FOR CARAVELLA

By Franco Mula

Sydney Olympic's stylish young midfielder Zenon Caravella has his sights on making the Under 20 Australian team and wants to establish himself as a regular first team starter at the club.

The 20 year - old who recently returned from Italy with Italian Serie C1 club Prato, has come back to where he first started playing his soccer, from under 13's through to 1st grade.

Caravella who is the nephew to Socceroo's coach Frank Farina says his 6-week trial in Italy was a learning curve for him, "it's a totally different style of play over there, and you have to learn and adapt to the new tactics."

The speedy midfielder was joined by former teammate at Olympic, Franco Parisi in his trials at Prato but it is understood that Parisi too has returned back to Sydney and could be signing for either Olympic or Sydney United.

This was the second trial Caravella has had overseas.

The centre-right midfielder has joined Olympic this year along with a few other faces for the



Zenon Caravella shown in action with Olympic during last season's National League campaign.

2003/2004 NSL season, "there are some experienced players here [Sydney Olympic] and some young and energetic guys, we are looking quite good for this season."

Olympic signed Pablo Cardozo, Scott Baillie and Ante Juric during the off-season alongside Fan Favourite Hirofumi Ishida making up the ex-Sharks contingent in this season's squad.

Australian and British Soccer Weekly learned to find out that Olympic's main ambition for this season is to make the finals, "our main goal at the club this year is to make the top six at the end of the season".

Caravella's who has his own personal ambitions, first of all to play a regular role for the team which will hopefully help him increase his chances of making the Australian under 20's squad, "my goal this year is to make the under 20 Australian side, it is something I want to achieve and I feel the more regular I play for Olympic the better chance I'll have of making the squad."

Caravella who came straight back to Olympic after his trial, is enjoying his time at the club so far, "the team morale is good and everyone is excited"

There are no real long term plans for Caravella as he is taking one step at a time and concentrating on this years NSL season and his goal of representing Australia although, "I would like to go back and play in Europe a bit later in my career one day."

Dempsey's Back

Australia's hopes of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup may depend on a draw from a hat according to new Oceania World Cup envoy Charlie Dempsey.

Eighty-two-year-old, Scottish-born New Zealander Dempsey, who has had a 40-year period of antagonism with Australian soccer officials, has been handed the position as a special envoy by Oceania's acting president, Samoan Tautulu Roebbeck.

His appointment comes just two weeks after Adelaide business executive Basil Scarsella was forced out of the OFC's top job by a bloc of Pacific island nations.

"With the connections I've had over the years it was decided I'd be appointed as an ambassador to try to rectify the current situation because it was quite obvious when the voting took place in Paris that there was absolutely no support from any other federations," he told Toyota World Sports.

Dempsey has had a chequered relationship with



New Oceania World Cup envoy Charlie Dempsey.

FIFA and world soccer officials especially after he abstained from the vote for the locality 2006 World Cup, allowing Germany to secure the hosting rights.

But Roebbeck said that Dempsey will help secure a better deal for Oceania in World Cup qualification.

However, Dempsey himself is not so confident.

"We're not get a better draw than we had," he admitted, "I think the four half places should be put in the hat and drawn equally, fairly, democratically, that way there's a three in one chance we'll get drawn away from South America."

As for his time in football administration, Dempsey said it will take more than just the voting controversy over the 2006 World Cup, or another feud with Soccer Australia to scare him away.

"As my wife tells me, and I'm telling you now, they'll have to shoot me to get me away from football."

*Source - Sportal

ADELAIDE UNITED UPDATE

A big crowd estimated at 1500 turned out to see Adelaide United defeat the State Team 2-1 at Golden Grove last week.

The new team sported a number of familiar faces under new coach John Kosmina who hopes to kick start his debut season with the squad in fine fashion.

The full squad listing at Adelaide United was:

David Scarsella, Richie Alagich, Aaron Goulding, Kristian Rees, Michael Valkanis, Aaron Westervelt, Goran Lozanovski, Matthew Kemp, Mimi Saric, Aurelio Vidmar, Elias Demourzidis, Subs: Shane Thompson, Sean Widera, Adriano Pellegrino, David

Terminello, Adriano Aufiero.

Meanwhile Adelaide City President Bob D'Ottavi is attempting to claim transfer fees for his former players from Adelaide United according to a report in today's Adelaide Advertiser.

have been released and are free agents.

However D'Ottavi is unlikely to smooth the way for the release of any players and Adelaide United, Soccer Australia, the Professional Players Football Association and Force are locked into negotiations for the release of contracted Force players.

PFA chief executive Rob Anderson said the players' welfare was in question.

"We are very concerned about the welfare of the affected players," Anderson said.

"Many of the players have mortgages to pay and this will impact on their families. No doubt their lives are severely impacted."

A spokesman for Soccer Australia has said that, after Force pulled the pin at their annual general meeting on August 31, all NSL Force contracts were declared "null and void".

Therefore all the players



Website Coming Soon

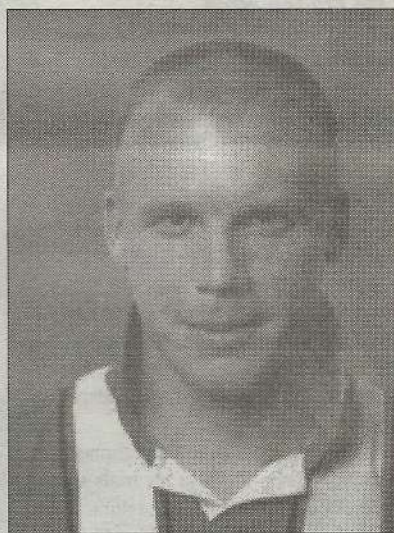
Robbie Slater Online

Former Qantas Socceroo, Blackburn Rovers, Southampton, West Ham and Lens player Robbie Slater has launched his new web site, www.robbslater.com.

Robbie played in the green and gold of Australia on 44 occasions, debuting against Rangers in 1984. He made his last Qantas Socceroo appearance in 1997 against Saudi Arabia, and has since turned his knowledge of the game to television commentary, coaching and presenting.

Robbie returned to Australia after a successful decade in top-flight European football, to captain the Northern Spirit Football club in its debut season in 1998. He ended his playing career shortly after to focus his talent at FOX SPORTS.

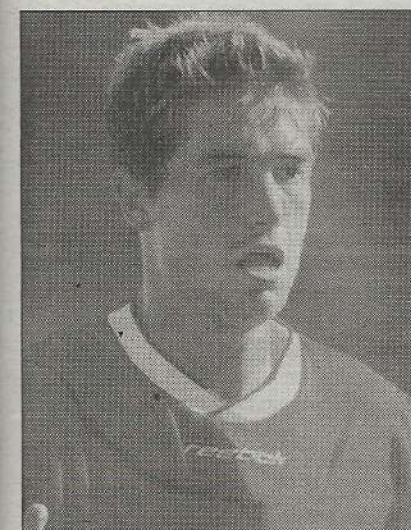
The website will differ from the average soccer site in that although it will give you all the news from the world of football it will also give you an insight to the world game from an Australian perspective with columnists such as Graham Arnold, Ian Crook, Phil Moss and Robbie himself giving the site their input on a regular basis.



You can now find Former Socceroo Robbie Slater online via the internet.

The new look www.robbslater.com will include guest columnists, photos, competitions, giveaways, downloadable goodies and of course the latest up to date football news.

Kewell defends Neil



Harry Kewell has defended Aussie mate Neill after his clumsy challenge on Jaime Carragher.

HARRY KEWELL has defended Socceroo team-mate Lucas Neill, who was branded "cowardly" by Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier.

Neill was sent-off against Liverpool for a challenge which left Jamie Carragher with a broken leg.

But Kewell, who scored the final goal in Liverpool's 3-1 win, insisted that the Blackburn right back is not a nasty player.

And Kewell said he remains friends with Neill, who responded with a goal in Rovers' 2-1 win at Portsmouth.

"People are going to brand Lucas a nasty player but he isn't like that. He's a hard player, just like Jamie, and he goes in to win the ball," said Kewell.

"I don't think you should mention Lucas' name around Liverpool at the moment. If you do it should be done quietly. I'm still great friends with him though, and he is a great player in my eyes."

Soccer Australia restructure to start within

Soccer Australia (SA) is considering a number of options for restructuring the game.

The organization's acting chief executive officer, Richard Johnson, said the board had looked at reports by independent advisers on the current status of SA and that more work needs to be done.

"Over the next week we will discuss the options with a number of parties, including the Australian Sports Commission and the Federal Government," Johnson said on Soccer Australia's official website.

"The discussions with Government will focus on what financial assistance is necessary to enable the new board to deliver on the recommendations of the Crawford Report and take the game forward."

"Once those discussions are complete the new board will be able to make a final decision and expects to make the details of any plans public within a

week or so."

Johnson's comments come on the back of reports chairman Frank Lowy is ready to put Soccer Australia into receivership.



Frank Lowy: Soccer Australia chairman.

The drastic move would mean that existing commercial deals which Soccer Australia consider unfavourable could be scrapped, while the national administrative structure and political system could also be done away with.

"There is absolutely no certainty we could have got money for the old entity or implemented the Crawford Report," said Lowy.

To implement the plan the organization would need funding from the Federal Government to pay off the old creditors and compensate commercial partners, but Lowy says Soccer Australia needs to get new sponsors on board.

"There were certain other elements, old deals and so on, that were stifling the company going forward, so we decided we can't do business this way"

FIFA has given its approval for the new entity to take over the mandate to run soccer in Australia.

SPENCER NAMED SPIRIT CAPTAIN

Northern Spirit were pleased to announce Noel Spencer as the team's captain for season 2003/2004.

Last season's Spirit captain Andrew McDermott will head overseas shortly after confirming a contract with Scottish Club Dumferline Athletic FC.

Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna personally selected Noel Spencer for the captaincy role and has high expectations of the midfielder for this season. He said:

"Noel Spencer will be a fantastic captain for the team. A leader on and off the pitch he is a player who leads by example and has the respect of the entire team. That said, we will miss Andrew McDermott (pictured above) from the squad. The players, and the Club, are happy for him and his contract at Dumferline will do wonders for his career. We wish him luck."

Spirit's Director of Football, Bill Collins, echoes McKinna's belief in

Spencer as the best candidate for captain of the squad this season. He said:

"We are more than pleased to announce Noel Spencer as the new captain of the squad. He is a pleasure to work with and a true team player."

Congratulations to Spencer and I'm sure he will live up to our expectations of him as captain this season. The confirmation of Andrew McDermott's contract in Scotland is a fantastic move for

him. It will be a very positive move for his career, and everyone at Northern Spirit wishes him luck."

Spencer is pleased to take over the role as captain and believes the squad can improve on last years efforts. He said:

"I'm really happy to be the captain for the Spirit this season."

With much the same squad as last year, the team and I are aiming to improve on our fifth placing we achieved last year. We'll continue to work as a team and really let the results speak for themselves."



Noel Spencer has been appointed captain of the Northern Spirit replacing the overseas bound Andy McDermott.

Lucas can date my daughter: Souness

BLACKBURN Rovers boss Graeme Souness has hailed Australia's Lucas Neill as a great player and a good bloke, saying he'd be happy for the Socceroos star to date one of his daughters.

Neill started last week as a villain after breaking Liverpool player Jamie Carragher's leg in an ugly tackle that cost Blackburn the match and Carragher six months on the sidelines.

But he ended the week as a hero after shrugging off the controversy to score for Blackburn in its 2-1 win over Portsmouth.

"He's a man and he proved it today," Souness said. "He's a proper fella. Put it this way, I've got daughters, and you'd be happy if your daughter came home with him."

Neill's teammate David Thompson, a former Liverpool midfield player, said Carragher held no grudges against the Australian.

"There's no hard feelings from Jamie towards Lucas," Thompson said.

"Lucas apologised at half-time and Jamie accepted it and I think Lucas has tried to speak to him since, as well."

"It was a bad tackle and an unfortunate injury."



Graeme Souness: Blackburn Rovers coach.



National Soccer League



| After Round 2 | TOTAL | | | | | | | PTS | HOME | | | | | | | AWAY | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---|---|---|-----|---|---|-----|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | P | W | D | L | BYE | F | A | | P | W | D | L | F | A | P | W | D | L | F | A | | |
| NEWCASTLE UTD | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | | |
| SYDNEY UNITED | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | |
| BRISBANE STRIKERS | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | | |
| MARCONI STALLIONS | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | |
| PERTH GLORY | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| SYDNEY OLYMPIC | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | |
| PARRAMATTA POWER | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| SOUTH MELBOURNE | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| MELBOURNE KNIGHTS | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | |
| FOOTBALL KINGZ | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| WOLLONGONG WOLVES | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| NORTHERN SPIRIT | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| ADELAIDE UNITED | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |

NEWCASTLE UNITED2
(J Wheelhouse 2' pen, 77' pen)

NORTHERN SPIRIT1
(D Macallister 28')

Referee: James Lewis. **Crowd:** 4,673. **Venue:** EnergyAustralia Stadium.
Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Willis, A Griffiths, Thomas, Owens (R Griffiths 63'), Johnson (Wilson 85'), Tsekenis, Blagojevic, Wheelhouse, Masi, Brown, Middleby ©.
Subs Not Used: Mitchell, Perosh (gk).
NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Watts, O'Sullivan, Spencer ©, Ferguson, Macallister, Richter (Obeid 80'), Hutchinson, Petrie (Kwasnik 75'), Wilkinson, Milligan.
Subs Not Used: Osman, Rex (gk).
Cautions: N Spencer (NS) 1', S Petrie (NS) 24', A Wilkinson (NS) 93'.

BRISBANE STRIKERS1
(D Pilic 53')

SYDNEY OLYMPIC1
(J Bakis 63')

Referee: Mark Shield. **Crowd:** 2,625. **Venue:** Perry Park.
Teams: **BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Kearton, Stefanutto, McCloughan, McLaren, Grierson ©, Fitzsimmons, Pilic (Brain 81'), McKay (Moon 63'), Rose, Morley.
Subs Not Used: Webber, Higgins (gk).
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Trajceviski, Kohler, Juric, Schirripa, Cardozo (Baird 77'), Allilovic, Bajis, Bojic, Karlovic, Ishida, Caravella (Fyfe 72').
Subs Not Used: Baillie, Moss (gk).
Cautions: Nil

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Marconi Stallions had the wizardry of silky midfielder Nick Carle to thank after an impressive performance in last week's two-one home victory against the Wollongong Wolves. His creativity in midfield led to many goal scoring chances for the home-side and helped Brad Maloney bag a double against John Turner's squad.

MARCONI STALLIONS2
(B Maloney 9', 18')

WOLLONGONG WOLVES1
(J Majurovski 73')

Referee: Simon Micallef. **Crowd:** 1,945. **Venue:** Marconi Stadium.
Teams: **MARCONI STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Longo, Casserly, Last, Gibson, Spiteri, Maloney ©, Thwaite, Harris (Brosque 55'), Carle (Anabalon 79'), Renaud.
Subs Not Used: Brodie, Alogdellis (gk).
WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Crews, Dragas, Jurilj, Hughes (Wells 82'), Hawrysiuk, Lyons (Cummins 72'), Arrarte, Balabanel (Majurovski 61'), Young ©, Blake, Nwagazi.
Subs Not Used: Whalan (gk).
Cautions: M Thwaite (MS) 41', M Turnbull (MS) 83', T Balabanel (WW) 30', A Hughes (WW) 69'.

ADELAIDE UNITED VS PARRAMATTA POWER (19/11/03)

PERTH GLORY3
(D Mori 82', T Pondeljak 87', A Caceras 88')

MELBOURNE0

Referee: Eddie Lennie. **Crowd:** 9,780. **Venue:** Arena Joondalup.
Teams: **PERTH GLORY:** Petkovic, Horsley, Hassell (Caceras 70'), Murphy, Srhoj (Bingley 87'), Mrdja (Despotovski 65'), North, Byrnes, Pondeljak, Mori, Coyne.
Subs Not Used: Matassa (gk).
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Zilic, Vargas, Piorkowski, Marth, Buljan, Erdogan (Razov 73'), Natsioulas (Waite 46'), Fa'Arodo, Pelikan, Pantelidis (Kovacic 87').
Subs Not Used: Hrehoresin (gk).
Cautions: S Murphy (PG) 62', A Caceras (PG) 88', S Zilic (MK) 32', M John (MK) 50'.

SYDNEY UNITED2
(M Langdon 58', A Zmire 62')

AUCKLAND KINGZ1
(M Cunico og 52')

Referee: Ben Williams. **Crowd:** 3,169. **Venue:** Sydney United SC.
Teams: **SYDNEY UNITED:** Reddy, Haliti (Doumanis 55'), Cunico, Vrkic, Langdon, Huxley (Markovic 89'), Babic (Ozbey 71'), Collina, Heffernan, Rudan ©, Zmire.
Subs Not Used: Necevski (gk).
AUCKLAND KINGZ: Nicholson, Rayner, Midtsian (Rowley 70'), Collins, Tambouras, Jackson ©, Christie (Martin 70'), Campbell, Ngata, Young, Schjervan (Beldham 70').
Subs Not Used: Scott (gk).
Cautions: M Rudan (SU) 9', Z Babic (SU) 28', M Cunico (SU) 75', D Heffernan (SU) 91', G Collins (FK), M Beldham (94').
Red Cards: T Ozbey (SU) 85'.

ROUND 3

Fri 3-10-03
Wollongong Wolves vs South Melbourne
Sat 4-10-03
Northern Spirit vs Sydney Olympic
Sat 4-10-03
Parramatta Power vs Football Kingz
Sat 4-10-03
Brisbane Strikers vs Perth Glory
Sat 4-10-03
Marconi Stallions vs Newcastle United
Sydney United - Bye

LEADING GOALSCORERS

| Name | Club | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| Jobe Wheelhouse | Newcastle | 3 |
| Brad Maloney | Marconi | 3 |
| Luke Morley | Brisbane | 2 |
| Joshua Rose | Brisbane | 1 |
| John Hutchinson | N Spirit | 1 |
| Esala Masi | Newcastle | 1 |
| Harry Ngata | Kingz | 1 |
| Anthony Pelikan | Melb Knights | 1 |
| Joe Vrkic | Sydney Utd | 1 |
| Dylan Macallister | Spirit | 1 |
| David Pilic | Brisbane | 1 |
| Jim Bakis | Olympic | 1 |
| John Majurovski | Wolves | 1 |
| Anthony Zmire | Syd Utd | 1 |
| Matthew Langdon | Syd Utd | 1 |
| Damian Mori | Perth | 1 |
| Adrian Caceras | Perth | 1 |
| Tom Pondeljak | Perth | 1 |

BYE - SOUTH MELBOURNE

Qld Lions 2003 Champions & Grand Final Winners



BACK ROW: F. Vanalves (Goalkeeper Coach), T. Ganter (Physio), G. Wilkins (Chairman QLD Lions), D. Corbett, D. Flaskas, J. Lowe, R. Davison, J. Lowndes, W. Moon, D. Sime, J. Carbone, S. Drinkeld, J. McDiarmid (Strapper/Masseur), C. Hollis (Asst Coach)
 MIDDLE ROW: L. Farinazzo, C. Iovell, L. Drake, G. McMaster (Res Goalkeeper), J. Lucas (Goalkeeper), S. Falkenhagen (Res Goalkeeper), R. Tollenare, S. Curtis, L. Oudendyk (C.E.O. QLD Lions)
 FRONT ROW: D. Varma, T. Gava, N. Carloss, G. Dilosa, M. Bleiberg (Coach), S. FitzSimmons, T. Hughes, D. Volker, N. Heron (Manager)



The Lions — 2003 Champions of Queensland

133 Pine Road, Richlands, QLD

Phone: (07) 3271 3636 • Fax: (07) 3271 3804



THE Queensland Lions as reported on ABSW's Page 1 story last week, were yet again crowned State League Champions for the 12th time.

This time round however, the Lions, Reserve as well as the Youth teams also won their respective Grand Finals giving the Orangemen, a magnificent treble for the season.

Again coached by the ever-astute and scheming Miron Bleiberg, the Lions, Senior team roared its unyielding superiority and dominance by winning the Minor League Championship, the Grand Final plus the Queensland Cup, nailing another historic 'Magic Treble' for the second year running.

Despite Bleiberg's obvious satisfaction in achieving these feats, he was even more pleased with the Lions, Reserve and Youth team successes.

This was the progressive Lions' 10th Grand Final win in the Club's illustrious history.



Gary Wilkins: Lions, Chairman.

The story of the Queensland Lions Soccer Club is a proud one, one which any sporting club in this nation would eagerly embrace.

Not only has this 46 year old Club conquered honours with monotonous regularity on the playing pitch.

Off the pitch, the Lions have never failed to move forward with meticulous, sound planning.

The Lions, visionary Board of Directors has over the years laboriously laid down very strong foundations to progressively expand its magnificent Social Club based in

the western region of Brisbane.

Today the Lions' thriving Social Club Complex situated in suburb of Richlands some 14 kilometres West of Brisbane, has been erected in the heart of 20 acres on prime real estate.

The Social Club itself is completely surrounded by no less than three full sized playing pitches, (including a boutique-styled Richlands



Jay Lucas: Lions' Star Goalkeeper.

Stadium), 40 metre towering floodlights, plus Rooball courts.

To cater for the players, the Lions, Stadium has no less than eight complete sets of dressing rooms, carpeted and air-conditioned if you please.

The industrious Lions Social Club, churns out a healthy stream of steady treasured income from 410 poker machines.

Over the years, this treasured income has been methodically re-channelled to finance constant expansion to the Lions' Club facilities and overall upgrading of the premises.

Today, the Lions' free-hold Social Club premises is valued at \$14 million plus.

The Lions Social Club boasts two spacious fully air-conditioned Lounges, a Bistro, a Char-grill deck, a children's room and a function centre.

Early this year, a brand new Auditorium embracing bolt-on Corporate Boxes was completed.

This addition comfortably accommodates at least another 400 Members and their guests and was erected at a cost of \$2.5 million plus.

Despite massive capital expenditure, the Lions' excellent Administration was able to end the fiscal year with a

Special Feature

by John Economos

trading surplus.

A vast contrast in today's Australian sporting World where other clubs of all codes, produce more Red than the Hunter Valley in NSW.

An astute and relative conservative Board of Directors, headed by Chairman and former Australian International defender Gary Wilkins, plus the dynamic and long-serving C.E.O. Lawrence Oudendyk, the Lions have kept pace with progress at all levels.

The energetic drive of Marketing Director Les Moodley, has never failed to generate a steady and healthy stream of sponsorships for the Club.

The Lions, vast and extensive range of Merchandise, has put all NSL clubs to shame.

Yet despite all these impeccable achievements, Soccer Australia for the past two or three seasons, has steadfastly



Lawrence Oudendyk: Crack C.E.O.

denied the Queensland Lions admission into the NSL.

How on Earth can this be possible?

When the Aristocrats of South Australia, Adelaide City, suddenly pulled out of the NSL earlier this month, it seemed the hungry Queensland Lions would automatically replace the 'Black and Whites', in the National Soccer League.

This was not to be so.

What must surely be a unique situation in Australian Soccer, we have a progressive Soccer club in the Lions that actually has a former Australian international as its

Chairman in Gary Wilkins — not some political figurehead.

Gary was an unyielding defender for the Brisbane club side Hollandia F.C.

He made his debut for the Australian team in 1967 against touring giants,



Miron Bleiberg: Lions' Head coach.

Manchester United who arrived in Australia with a galaxy of legends such as Georgie Best, Bobby Charlton, Pat Crerand, Denis Law and ace goalkeeper, Alex Stepney.

In October the very same year, Gary Wilkins toured the war-zoned nation that was under siege, South Vietnam.

The always cheerful Wilkins was a prominent member of the young Australian squad captained by Johnny Warren.

On that historic tour Australia played 10 consecutive internationals in three weeks, winning all 10, including the Tournament

Team Structure 2003

- 4 Senior Teams
- 43 Junior Teams
- 5 Women's Teams
- 5 Over 35's Teams (Social)

Final.

Today, Gary Wilkins and his visionary Board of Directors have kept the Lions at the top, an achievement unequalled in the code of Australian Soccer.

The Queensland Lions' giant Orange and Blue umbrella embraces an army of some 57 teams.

Teams that the Lions today have include 43 Junior sides, Women's squads plus five Over 35's Men's teams.

The Queensland Lions employ former tough as teak centre-back John Sime on a full time basis as their Director Of Coaching who keeps a vigil eye over all the Junior and Youth Squads, and blue-prints their programmes.



Darren Sime: Senior captain.

'History Of The Qld Lions SC'

Club Founded in 1957

1957 Played in Qld Lower Division Competitions.
1966 Promoted to Qld First Division.
1969 Win first Premiership and Cup.
1977 Admitted to National Soccer League as a Foundation Member.

1977-88 Participated in National Soccer League.

1982 Won NSL Cup (Australia-wide).

1989-90 Played in Qld First Division Competition.

Playing Achievements

NSL Cup Winners

1982
QSF 1st Division Premiers
12 times
Queensland Cup
4 times
QSF Grand Final Winners
10 times

ABSW, again, salutes the Queensland Lions Soccer Club for being one of the best, progressive and most successful sporting clubs of any code in our nation.



One of the air-conditioned plush lounges for Members inside the Queensland Lions' Social Club.



from the dressing sheds



by Mark Stavroulakis

NEW FUNDING PACKAGE FOR AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

The Australian Government will continue its support for reform of soccer in Australia with the provision of a new \$15 million funding package tied to improved management and implementation of the recommendations of the Crawford Review, the Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Rod Kemp announced last week.

'In response to concerns expressed by the soccer community, the Australian Government has strongly supported reform of soccer management and administration in this country as recommended by the Crawford Review of Soccer released in April this year,' Senator Kemp said.

'That report recommended a major overhaul of the governance and structure of the game with the appointment of an interim board led by Mr Frank Lowy as Chairman,' he said.

Senator Kemp said that following a detailed analysis by independent financial experts, it had become clear to the interim board that the current Soccer Australia company was not a viable entity.

In response to a request from Mr Lowy's board, the Australian Government has decided to offer a new, one-off three year funding package to soccer's official ruling body in Australia, via the Australian Sports Commission, with the final amount tied to specified improvements in the financial and administrative management of the game.

The package is made up of a combination of a \$9 million grant over three years, and a loan of \$6 million commencing from the establishment of the new governing body for soccer in Australia.

'As the Crawford Review noted, the game of soccer has been poorly managed at a national level for a considerable period of time and desperately needed suitably qualified people to overhaul the organisation,' Senator Kemp said.

'The Lowy board intends to create a new structure for the game, which would allow for the implementation of the major recommendations of the Crawford Review,' he said.

Senator Kemp stressed that the new funding package will provide a platform upon which a more professional board can build a thriving and financially viable game for the hundreds of thousands of participants and supporters who have pushed for reform.

'The funding package is to be offered subject to a number of conditions, which include:

- that a satisfactory business plan be provided to the Government;

- that the grant money be reviewed each year against the business plan;

- that a commitment is made to

prioritising the raising of additional revenue over and above the Australian Government contribution;

- that the new body continue with its implementation of the recommendations of the Crawford Review;

- that all governance requirements are satisfied;

- that the grant payments would be reduced if actual net income exceeds the forecasts provided in the business plan. (This would be implemented according to a formula to be determined on advice from the Australian Sports Commission); and that the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) endorses the proposed arrangements for restructuring soccer in Australia.

Importantly, the Government recognises and fully supports participation in soccer at the grassroots. By working to get it right at the national level, the game can develop at the grassroots to the benefit of everyone involved in soccer throughout the country.

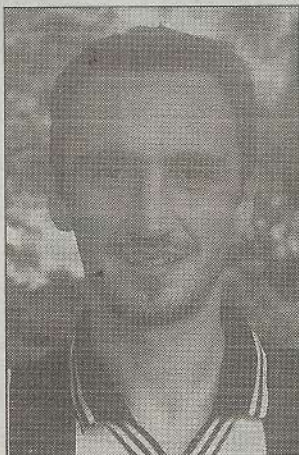
7 SIGN FOR ADELAIDE

Adelaide United made its first steps in signing new players for its debut season by announcing seven signatures last week.

Aurelio Vidmar, Michael Valkanis, David Scarsella, Nick Budin, Kristian Rees, David Terminello and Shane Smeltz all put pen to paper for the new squad.

It is expected that Goran Lozanovski, Matthew Kemp, Adriano Pellegrini, Carl Veart and Elias Demortzidis will all sign for the club this week.

Coach John Kosmina has assembled a good group of players who hope to put an assault on the National League in their first season.



Mike Valkanis was one of the seven players that signed with Adelaide United this season.

Local talent is also being considered by 'Kossie' with Richie Alagich (Port Adelaide), Aaron Westervelt and Shane Thompson (Enfield) all tipped to sign for United.

Young promising U17 Joeys keeper Nick Crossley has also been linked to a move at Hindmarsh Stadium but there's also been a big rumour that could possibly happen for the club.

One of Australia's first exports to the European league Ross Aloisi, brother of John has stated that he is returning to Adelaide and is a firm favourite to land a spot at the club.

QPR LINK FOR VSF

Victorian football has quickly established a link with Queens Park Rangers through their appointment of new chief executive Damien Bown. Bown's brother Clinton is the new marketing and communications officer at QPR.

The London club's Lofthus Road stadium is being considered by Soccer Australia as a home-

base for the national team. Meanwhile, the new VSF CEO told the *Herald-Sun*, "I want to see the VSF go from an organisation to creating a movement."

"I won't stop until I see soccer played in every park, in every school, on the beach and spoken about in every home." He added, "My dream and my vision is that in 2018, you and I and everyone else around us will be going to watch the World Cup final at the MCG."



"It's only 15 years away, and against all the odds Australia will have made it to the World Cup final and there'll be a sea of green and gold all the way round the MCG on the world's greatest stage. And by that time, yes, I will be the secretary-general of FIFA."

NIGHTMARE IS OVER FOR NIGERIAN GOAL ACE

Celebrated striker Chimaobi Nwaogazi realised his dream last weekend when he finally got his chance at playing in the National League against the Marconi Stallions.

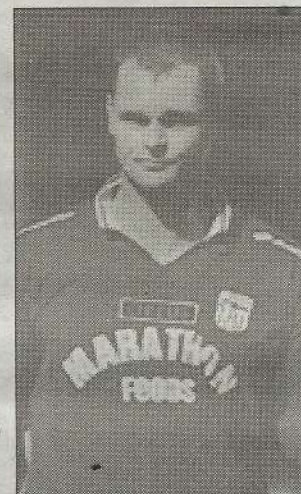
After a long wait since first arriving here to play for Sydney Olympic 3 years ago, the former Pepsi Golden Boot winner is over the moon and looking forward to repaying all the people in Australia who have helped him.

"I would like to thank my agent, every one at Wollongong Wolves and Fawkner soccer clubs, the Mehrton family in Newcastle, Ann

Nichols at Soccer Australia, doctors, friends, just everyone" he said today when permission was granted by the Department of Immigration for him to be a professional footballer in Australia.

His previous two attempts at NSL football with Olympic and Newcastle were thwarted by his former club in Nigeria who placed a ridiculous fee on his head" said Chris Tanner of Zenith Football Management. "He can now finally continue his career in Australia and beyond. He is good enough to play overseas but chose Australia to be the next step in his professional footballing life. He's lost a couple of years but he'll catch up pretty quick... the lad can play."

PETERSEN JOINS GREEN GULLY



Mike Petersen has been appointed new coach of the last year's Victorian Premier League champs Green Gully.

Former South Melbourne and Football Kingz coach Mike Petersen has been appointed head coach of reigning Victorian Premier League club Green Gully. Petersen takes over from Ian Dobson, who returned to the Melbourne Knights as head coach over the winter. Petersen had the task of coaching the Football Kingz and South Melbourne in the National League in previous seasons and has yet to signal out a return to the NSL in the future.

Meanwhile, VPL rivals Bulleen have named former Australia international Peter Ollerton as head coach for the coming season.

DID YOU KNOW?

PLAYER MILESTONES

Perth Glory's SCOTT MILLER made his 250th NSL appearance this Sunday when the Glory took on Melbourne Knights at Arena Joondalup. Before being an inaugural Perth Glory player back in the 1996/97 season, Miller played two seasons (49 games) with the Morwell Falcons.

STAT SPOT - A DOUBLE ON DEBUT

LUKE MORLEY achieved a rare feat in his NSL debut last weekend. Playing for the Brisbane

Strikers against Northern Spirit, Morley netted two goals to become only the second player in the past ten years to score two goals in his NSL debut, and only the 16th player in the history of the league to achieve this feat. The previous occurrence of a player scoring a brace on debut was in December 2000 by Sydney Olympic's Franco Parisi who was aged 17 at the time.

21 year old Morley joins an illustrious group who have scored twice on debut, including, former Qantas Socceroos Steve Maxwell, David Lowe, Charlie Egan and Peter Ollerton.

TWO+ GOALS SCORED ON NSL DEBUT

21.09.03 Luke Morley, for Brisbane Strikers (W3-1 v Northern Spirit)

16.12.00 Franco Parisi, for Sydney Olympic (W3-2 v Canberra Cosmos)

07.10.91 Tim Bredbury, for Sydney Olympic (W3-0 v Parramatta Eagles)

30.03.86 Saul Rivero, for Wollongong Wolves (W2-1 v Marconi Stallions)

04.03.84 Joe Sweeney, for Brunswick (W2-1 v Melbourne Knights)

15.05.83 Steve Winn (3 goals), for Marconi (W5-4 v Wollongong Wolves)

13.03.83 Steve Maxwell, for Adelaide City (D2-2 v Canberra City)

06.06.82 Alan Sunderland, for Brisbane Lions (W2-1 v West Adelaide)

13.03.82 David Lowe, for Newcastle KB Utd (W2-0 v Marconi Stallions)

14.02.82 Charlie Egan, for South Melbourne (W3-0 v Wollongong Wolves)

24.05.81 Bob Latchford, for Brisbane Lions (W4-0 v Footscray)

15.02.81 Clive Campbell, for Wollongong Wolves (W3-1 v Sydney Olympic)

24.07.77 Zdravko Borovnica, for Footscray (W2-0 v South Melbourne)

08.06.77 Craig Wallace, for Brisbane City (D3-3 v West Adelaide)

03.04.77 David Harding, for Western Suburbs (W5-0 v Mooroolbark)

02.04.77 Peter Ollerton, for South Melbourne (W2-0 v Sydney Olympic)

STAT SPOT - LONG LIVE ALEX

Last weekend ALEX TOBIN of the Northern Spirit became the NSL's longest-ever serving player, in the Spirit's match against Brisbane Strikers. The match marked 19 years and 131 days since Tobin made his NSL debut back on 13 May 1984, and means Tobin now has the longest career span of any NSL player, ahead of Alan Davidson whose NSL career lasted 19 years and 32 days.

Current NSL players Aurelio Vidmar (Adelaide United) and Mehmet Durakovic (South Melbourne) also feature in the list of the league's longest-ever serving players.

photooftheweek



Heather Garriock (R) from Australia reacts after losing a ball against Russian goalkeeper Alla Volkova (L) during the second half of their FIFA 2003 Women's World Cup game.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT GLENWOOD

The first major step on the road to potential national soccer stardom commenced this weekend, as youngsters in the Australian Under 15 & 16 age group compete in the Qantas National Talent Identification Championships (NTIC). The cream of Australia's teenage soccer talent gathers annually to compete at the Qantas NTIC, each representing their respective State, Territory or region.

This year the tournament is once again being held at Sydney's Valentine Sports Park, home of Soccer NSW. The tournament began last Saturday and runs through to Saturday October 4. The 12 teams in each age group are split into two groups before competing in semi-finals and finals to decide the national Champion. The Qantas NTIC aims to identify potential junior national team members,

and gives players a chance to be selected for NSL clubs, the Australian Institute of Sport and the various State Institutes. It also gives state federations the opportunity to appraise their development programs, while players can evaluate their own individual skills against other elite players.

Already the competition has thrown up some surprise results - for all the latest action, scores and fixtures, visit www.soccernsw.com.au

Better still, why not pay a visit to Valentine Park this week and see some future stars shine on the pitch?

The competition reaches a climax this Saturday, when the national champions in each age category will be decided.

Many of Australia's best players have come through the Qantas NTIC ranks, before attending state institutes or academies, moving into the NSL and eventually to successful careers overseas.

The Qantas Joeys (Australia Under-17) squad that will attempt to qualify for the 2005 FIFA Under 17 World Championship is expected to largely be made up of talented players identified at the 2003 and 2004 tournaments.

Australian National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou is well aware of the significance of the Championships.

"The NTIC is an important part of the



Australian soccer calendar", said Postecoglou. "This tournament is the first glimpse of the stars of tomorrow in official competition.

"From my point of view I can look at those players that will largely form the next batch of Joeys."

Soccer NSW will bring you full coverage and results in next week's issue, including match reports.

The teams competing in this year's NTIC are as follows:

New South Wales Metropolitan
New South Wales Country
Victoria
Victoria Country
Australian Capital Territory
Queensland
Queensland Country
South Australia
Western Australia
Northern Territory
Tasmania



SUPER LEAGUE SEASON REVIEW

HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS



Position: 7th Won 8 Drawn 7 Lost 9 - Points 31
Coach: Peter 'The General' Sarikakis

Anybody who would have said the Minotaurs could turn their season around after being anchored to the bottom three in the first twelve rounds would have been certified insane and promptly committed. But coach Peter Sarikakis never gave up hope, bringing in five or six quality players in a midseason recruiting coup that completely turned around their season. So much so that, four weeks out from the semi-finals, they were the form side of the league and were still on target for an unlikely finish in fifth spot. A lack of overall team discipline proving their undoing.

Streaks: One win and three draws from their first eleven games was promptly turned into an eleven game unbeaten run which saw them mount a challenge for fifth spot.

Season Turning Point: The recruitment of Peter Trajcevski, Peter Apolevski, Malcolm Bideau and Max Sevares before the transfer deadline completely rejuvenated the team with their experience giving the rest of the squad some much needed confidence.

Best Win: A 4-0 win over Dulwich Hill in which they finished the

game with nine players was by far and away their best performance for the year.

Worst Defeat: Losses to Manly, AC United, Dulwich Hill and Fraser Park inside the first games showed up the Minotaurs early defensive frailties.

Players who starred: Peter Trajcevski continued on his excellent form during the summer at Rockdale in joining the Minotaurs mid-way through the season, before moving onto Sydney Olympic. Anyone who thought veteran utility George Kalogeras was washed up had better think again, as the player they affectionately call 'nipper' had one of his best seasons in years.

Players who didn't: Veteran forward Jim Melissourgos and goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos failed to live up to their lusty reputations and bid an early exit to the season while defender Peter Papoythis' appointment as assistant coach at Sydney Olympic robbed the Minotaurs of his experience midway through the year.

The Future: Who knows with the Minotaurs? As President, coach, cook and chief bottle washer the future of this club sits on the mighty shoulders of one Peter Sarikakis.



Hurstville City's Maxi Sevares

...INSIDE...

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SUPER LEAGUE SEASON IN REVIEW

WITH GREG STOCK



MSC LIVERPOOL



Position: 11th Won 5 Drawn 6 Lost 13 – Points 21
Coach: Paul Carter

After a couple of poor seasons, the pressure was firmly on the shoulders of new coach Paul Carter to breathe some life into MSC Liverpool. He responded by putting together a very competitive outfit on a small budget without any big name players, and their final ladder position of eleventh didn't do them justice. The big loss for the club was their home ground, with the resurfacing work rendering Hammondville Oval unplayable. While Ernie Smith was a stopgap measure the surface wasn't well-suited to the Liverpool short passing game.

Streaks: A six game losing streak from late July to mid August cost the team any chance of an unlikely semi-final appearance. Up until that point they had held their own matching it with a number of the eventual semi-finalists.

Season Turning Point: Their 4-6 loss to Crescent Star on April 21 could have gone either way. Leading the match at various stages they were unable to hold out the fast finishing eventual-champions when it seemed like an upset was on the cards.



MSC Liverpool captain Peter Moon

Best Win: Their 5-0 demolition of the Minotaurs in the final game made up for their 1-5 hammering the previous week.

Worst Defeat: A 1-0 defeat by Sutherland in early August was hard to swallow given they were the better side. Even a draw in that game would have allowed them to finish in 10th spot.

Players who starred: The two Daniels - Willoughby and Kuziow - did tremendously well and look to have bright futures. Veteran Alex Araujo provided the experience up front while skipper Peter Moon put in his customary strong season marshalling the troops at the back.

Players who didn't: He has been one of the state leagues most potent goalscorers over the past decade but the sun is beginning to set on the career of Eric Williams. His midseason move from Sutherland did nothing to reignite his season which saw him net just one goal for the club from the penalty spot.

The Future: The reappointment of Paul Carter as coach is a bright move and with a number of his young guns another year older, they'll definitely be one of the sides to watch next season. The long awaited return to the pristine playing surface at Hammondville Oval should also be a highlight with MSC expected to be a real contender for next season's semi-finals.



RYDE CITY GUNNERS



Hard working Ryde City striker Rob Portelli

Position: 12th Won 5 Drawn 5 Lost 14 – Points 20
Coach: Chris Cowley

A poor start to the season was saved by a late run from the Gunners, who managed to haul in Macarthur over the final six weeks and avoid the wooden spoon. Led by debutante coach, Chris Cowley the team's slow beginning was saved by an influx of players just before the transfer deadline, which helped their cause considerably. Without the big budgets of other clubs they held their own with their gallant displays in the second half of the year, a tribute to the coaching staff.

Streaks: The final eleven games for Ryde were a revelation. Fourteen competition points and just three losses ensured they finished the year on a bright note after looking the early odds-on favorite for the drop.

Season Turning Point: Their 2-2 draw with Dulwich Hill in mid June snapped a nine game losing streak and saw them start their long climb off the bottom.

Best Win: Their 2-0 win over Manly-Warringah in round one with ten men was a shock, while their 2-1 win over semi-final bound Sutherland in the second last game of the season ensured they were safe from relegation.

Worst Defeat: An 8-0 hammering at the hands of Fraser Park in late March was utterly shambolic. The Dragons win stripped the club of its confidence and they spiraled out of contention posting eight straight losses before Cowley could steady the ship.

Players who starred: Any punter who thought Robbie Portelli was washed up as a player may think again. His return of five goals wasn't all that impressive, but his contribution in holding the ball up and giving his side a focal point on the forward line marked a huge improvement on his form from last season. Solid years from Scott Dixon, Simon Turner, Greg Fuchs and Eddie Giraldo were also a feature.

Players who didn't: The Gunners goalkeeping problems were a huge liability with neither Peter Sestak or Nick Apofis able to cement the spot until Chris Sharpe came on the scene. Nathan Hall was another who struggled at this level.

The Future: An offseason cleanout should be high on the agenda for coach Chris Cowley, who needs to recruit 5 or 6 quality players to make this side a genuine contender. Keep an eye out for a couple of youngsters in Matthew Peatey and Dave Provan to make an impact next season.



MACARTHUR RAMS



Position: 13th – Won 3 Drawn 6 Lost 15 – Points 15
Coach: Washington Gonzalez

2003 was an unhappy year for the Rams in many ways, as they sought to restructure the club following a semi-finals appearance in season 2002. With many of last year's team moving on during the off-season, the job fell to Washington Gonzalez who recruited a bunch of no-name players to try and do the job. Sadly, they fell short in the run home leaving the clubs future in the Super League in grave doubt.

Streaks: A 14-game losing streak from mid May till the end of the season was a telling blow. If they had have been able to convert a couple of these close games to three points then they may well have been in with a better show of offloading the wooden spoon.

Season Turning Point: Their 2-1 win over Dulwich Hill in early May was the last time the club tasted victory. It was all downhill from there.

Best Win: Take your pick, Sydney University, Ryde City and Dulwich Hill were the only sides to fall victim to the Rams.



Andrew Borg was a stand-out for the Rams in 2003

Worst Defeat: Too many to mention but their 5-0 hammering by Sutherland at Lynwood Park in round 7 and a 5-1 defeat by Sydney University in round 16 hit the club hard.

Players who starred: One player at the club stood head and shoulders above all others – Andrew Borg. He scored 8 of the clubs 15 goals and toiled away even when his side was going backwards. Goalkeeper Peter Munsie also showed he is no slouch between the sticks, while Gary Seymour also showed he could play at a higher level. Sadly though, they had few friends.

Players who didn't: Too many to mention. Without pointing the finger, a number of the Rams squad looked decidedly uncomfortable at this level.

The Future: It is up to the powers that be, whether the Rams stay in the Super League or are relegated to Division One, and to be perfectly frank, if they are relegated, they only have themselves to blame. However, the Rams represent a large and thriving football region, and they can set their long-term hopes high.



SOCCER NSW

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SUPER LEAGUE SEASON IN REVIEW

WITH GREG STOCK



MANLY-WARRINGAH DOLPHINS



Position: 8th Won 7 Drawn 8 Lost 9 – Points 29
Coach: Phil Moss (Player/coach)

If Manly were a racehorse it would sent to the vets for a swab. How a side boasting so much talent could perform so enigmatically is anyone's guess, their finishing position of eighth belies their true talents. On their day they were top three material capable of mixing it with any side in the league, but their days were few and far between, inconsistency against the bottom sides costing the team dearly.

Streaks: Nine games without a win between April 13 and June 29 virtually scuttled their season. Despite picking up five draws a lack of finishing on the forward line cost them an opportunity to convert these close games into wins, blowing their semi-final chances away.

Season Turning Point: A 4-4 draw with champions Crescent Star on April 19th was one of the games of the year, again showing the Dolphins could match it with any team in the league.

Best Win: A 4-1 win over Macarthur and a 5-1 win over Minotaurs in rounds two and three had every other side looking at the Dolphins as genuine contenders. But sadly those results proved an aberration.

Worst Defeat: Their 5-0 loss to Fraser Park on a cold Wednesday



Manly player-coach Phil Moss

night in late May at Cromer Park completely shattered the teams confidence and they never really recovered.

Players who starred: Pascal Julliard had an impressive debut Super League season prompting many judges to feel him destined for higher honours. Omar Obeid was another to have a strong second half of the campaign, which carried him into the first fifteen for Northern Spirit in this current NSL season.

Players who didn't: Steve Berry's injured hamstring had a big impact on his team who always looks to his inspiration in the mid-field. Goalkeeper Dean McCreath was another big loss when his comeback was ended almost as quickly as it begun following a knee reconstruction.

The Future: The expected reappointment of Phil Moss as coach is a positive move but with a number of Premier League clubs looking to scavenge his squad, just how many of this years team return will be a big question. If Rosenthal, Sharpley and Berry can be re-signed, and Moss can be tempted to play another year there should be enough experience in the Dolphins ranks to have them there or thereabouts next season.



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Position: 9th Won 9 Drawn 2 Lost 13 – Points 29
Coach: Stewart Porter

A solid year for 'the students' who built on their debut Super League in 2002 to finish in a comfortable mid table position. Despite having striker Rob Smithies on the injured list for some of the season, the team was competitive in every one of their games and was still in the hunt for the semi-finals up until the last four weeks. With their hardworking midfield the focal point, Uni can feel well pleased with their efforts and that of their coach Stewart Porter.

Streaks: Two wins and a draw from their first five games set them up nicely for their best season since winning the First Division crown in 2001.

Season Turning Point: The recruitment of Jeremy Brown, Daniel Borg and Adam Snyder at the end of the Premier League season bolstered their squad depth significantly and gave Porter enough quality players to make a run from the finals.

Best Win: Uni's 2-1 win over semi-finalists Sutherland on July 13th was especially sweet for coach Stewart Porter who had played at and coached the Sharks previously

Worst Defeat: A nailbiting 1-0 loss to AC United in round 24, in which midfielder Daniel Borg was sent off in controversial circumstances, marked the end of their 2003 campaign.

Players who starred: Two relative 'no-names' in midfielder Daisuke Nakayama and defender Joshua Heath stole the show and both should feel well pleased with their seasons. Stopper Peter Feehan was another who figured prominently while striker Tim Wilson came on in leaps and bounds after his off-season move from Manly.

Players who didn't: Talented goalkeeper James Meyer missed most of the year with work commitments while striker Rob Smithies' hamstring held him to 13 goals from an injury plagued season. If Smithies had have been fully fit there is no telling how many goals he would scored.

The Future: Stewart Porter has confirmed he will be back in season 2004 but even he can't perform miracles on a limited budget. What is missing is a couple of quality players and while Rob Smithies could score 18 goals if fully fit, their performance next season will largely depend on how the club does in the offseason recruiting stakes.



Sydney University's Daisuke Nakayama



DULWICH HILL



Position: 10th Won 5 Drawn 6 Lost 13 – Points 21
Coaches: Agenor Muniz (9 games), Jimmy Patikas (15 games)

Never a semi-final contender at any stage of the season, Dulwich Hill endured one of its most indifferent years in recent memory and only has itself to blame for the poor finish. A failure to recruit any top line players until midseason meant the club was hopelessly undermanned for the first ten or so games condemning it to being one of the leagues also-rans. The appointment of Jim Patikas as coach was a breath of fresh air and one must wonder why he wasn't put in charge in the first place.

Streaks: A win and a draw from their first nine games left the club chasing the pack right from the outset.

Season Turning Point: The appointment of Jim Patikas as coach after nine games saw him take a razor to the playing squad stripping it of some of its dead wood. The move paid dividends with Patikas returning the club to respectability in the second round.

Best Win: In early June, a 3-0 win over arch rivals Fraser Park in a midweek fixture at Lambert Park was significant in showing their fans the team had turned the corner.



Blast from the past: Dulwich Hill's Jim Patikas in his playing days

Worst Defeat: Dished out a 4-0 thumping by the Minotaurs on June 22nd coach Jim Patikas attacked his team in the media calling their performance "disgraceful". The irked team responded, losing just one of their next five games.

Players who starred: A couple of club stalwarts, Jerry Barros and Helder Cardoso, had good years while the enigmatic Jean-Loop Rousseau caught the eye with his speed and skill on the forward line. The recruitment of goalkeeper Michael Xuereb midseason was a masterstroke as he put behind him an indifferent Premier League season with some excellent performances while Paul Jurcevic and Micahel Cindric in defence did well throughout the second round.

Players who didn't: The Super League career of goal-poacher Ben Burrows looks to be all but over after his move from Ryde City in the first few weeks of the season. Personal problems have again raised concerns that Burrows may never reach his full potential.

The Future: The reappointment of Jim Patikas will make absolutely certain the club is competitive in 2004. If he can re-sign the majority of the squad that finished the year and pick up a quality goalscorer he should have enough cattle to take Dulwich Hill into the semi-finals for the first time in three years.



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FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



Harry Fired Up

FTS caught up with Harry James during the week, revealing the talented striker is on the comeback trail and ready to return for a stint in the Premier League.

The last time state league fans saw James in action was season 2001/2 when he made 12 appearances for A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt during an injury riddled season, before heading south to join Wollongong Olympic in the Illawarra Premier League.

His return of 28 goals over the past two seasons has revived interest in his services as he looks to reignite his career. "My last stint in the Premier League was a forgettable one," said James.

"I came back from the National League with a poor attitude and I paid the price. I thought that I could kill it at this level and I let myself down, but that experience has made me a stronger and better player mentally and all I am looking for now is an opportunity."

Five years ago James was the toast of the National League earning plaudits from such coaching luminaries as Lee Sterrey at Newcastle and Branko Culina who was so impressed that he took him to the Canberra Cosmos. But some contractual problems at Sydney Olympic and a failed trial with Greek club Xanthi left James disillusioned and disinterested, culminating with his move to the Illawarra and an opportunity for a fresh start. "I am 27 years year old now, so right now I am in the prime of my playing career," said James.

"Playing with Wollongong Olympic helped me to refocus on what is important and to enjoy my soccer. I recently got married, I started my own events management business and all I want to do now is to prove to everyone who has written me off, that I still have the talent and see where it goes from there."

Berries Hitout

James made a guest appearance for Canterbury-Marrickville in the first pre-season trial game of the year - a 4-0 loss to NSL side Parramatta Power. Coach Greg Woodhouse elected to play only six of his regular first graders preferring to cast his eye over some trialists who were understandably overwhelmed against much stronger opposition.

"It was a good hitout for the team and a good opportunity to play against a top quality side on Parramatta Stadium," said Woodhouse. David Cervinski made his debut in Berries colours and according to our spies had a very strong game. The Berries are also looking to trial an unnamed English import next month who was once on the books of Coventry City.

Stop Press

Late news in, Belconnen coach Chris Tanzey has signed ex Wollongong Wolves midfielder Alex Castro on a one-year deal. More news on this in next week's FTS.

Big Season Beckons

The forthcoming Premier League season is fast becoming the most competitive in memory, if the frenzied recruiting of quality players is anything to go by. And, what's more, we are still a good seven weeks from the start of round one. Fresh from last year where we saw a dozen or so seasoned National League stars return to the ranks, we are now seeing twenty or so more returning, as the Premier League clubs look to bolster their ranks, which were decimated in some instances by NSL clubs.

Tigers Snap Up Several

Firstly, to A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt, where Club President Tony Raciti has confirmed the signing of defender Robbie Stanton from Wollongong Wolves, wing-back David Barrett from Sydney United, midfielder Christian Care from Marconi and midfielder Paul Bilokapic from Sydney United.

On the back of those names, defender Andrew Clark is expected to rejoin the team following his stint with Malaysian club Sabah. With a couple of other players expected to follow, FTS will have a discussion with headcoach Les De Celis in the next few weeks.

De Celis has just returned from a trip to Italy where he joined the coaching staff at Empoli in the lead-up to their Serie A season.

Lambert Upgrade

In other A.P.I.A. news, the club is set to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2004 with some gala events to be announced for the New Year.

Formed in 1954 by the then Italian migrant community the club has been at the forefront of soccer in NSW, culminating with their win in the Premier League Grand Final last season.

Club President Tony Raciti also reports that following their championship win that they have \$110,000 in confirmed sponsorship for the new season and are currently working hard on replacing the ground signage at Lambert Park to reflect the influx of new spons-

sors. The home dressing sheds at Lambert are also in for a revamp while 100 tonnes of top soil has been dropped on the pitch to have the surface in tip-top shape for their round one showdown, potentially against winter champions Sydney Crescent Star.

Crescent Star To Rise?

Speaking of things Crescent Star, the rumors are flying thick and fast about their possible promotion to the top flight, but FTS can confirm an official decision is yet to be reached. SCS have signed a 5-year lease on Lidcombe Oval and are committed to spending \$60,000 on upgrades to the facilities at this historic venue.

Tony Back Home

Another club making waves in the recruiting stakes is Rockdale City Suns who have confirmed they have signed midfielder Tony Sekulic for next season.

A former junior at the club, Sekulic has spent the past few years overseas in Germany with FSV Mainz 05 and VFR Mannheim before returning last year to link up with Marconi.

Sekulic played in 21 games with the Stallions for 3 goals and is expected to hold down a midfield role with the Suns alongside new recruit Ante Moric and stalwart Ben Deighan. "Tony is an excellent pickup for us" said Suns coach Bill Pilovski.

"He is a quality player with a positive attitude and I am very confident he will do exceptionally well for us."

Pilovski is also quite pleased with the progress being made by defender Alex Kotevich as he looks to make a return following ankle ligament damage sustained in the 2001 Winter Super League Grand Final win over Hajduk Wanderers.

Kotevich recently returned from holidays in Europe where he spent some time with his former club in Germany, hanging out with friends and doing some light work in preparation for the forthcoming season.

Super League Goalscorers 2003

26 - Tanju Balabanel (Sydney Crescent Star),

13 - Antonio Faria (Fraser Park),

12 - Anthony Sarmonikas (Stanmore Hawks), Rob Smithies (Sydney University),

11 - Liam Austin (Fraser Park),

10 - Yavus Ekinci (Sydney Crescent Star), Chris Giometti (AC United), Emmanuel Papageorgiou (Fraser Park),

9 - Tim Wilson (Sydney Uni), Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers), Jean-Loop Rousseau (Dulwich Hill),

8 - Justin Creighton (Manly-Warringah), Derek Poirer (Sutherland), Andrew Borg (Macarthur), Mark Guerrero (Fraser Park), Navid Vares (Hajduk Wanderers),

7 - Zia Younan (AC United), Filip Marzec (Sydney Crescent Star), Jason Connolly (Sutherland Sharks), Demetri Nicolaou (Stanmore Hawks),

6 - Jason Tee (Manly-Warringah), Andrew Smith (Sutherland), Nahuel Arrarte (Hajduk Wanderers), Iain MacDonald (Sutherland), Alex Araujo (MSC Liverpool),

5 - Hussein Jomaa (Sydney Crescent Star), Adam Kwasnik (Manly-Warringah), Scott Dixon (Ryde City), Johnny Ghisso (AC United), Rob Portelli (Ryde City), Trent Worrall (Hajduk Wanderers),

4 - Anthony Mondello (Dulwich Hill), Gary Seymour (Macarthur), Monte Pfrengle (Sutherland Sharks), Chris Camilleri (Hajduk Wanderers), Steve Bayeas (Ryde City), Terry Atsas (Sydney Crescent Star), Huseyin Bayhan (Sydney Crescent Star), Rick Giometti (AC United), Bill Petrovski (Fraser Park), Chris Hunt (Stanmore Hawks),

3 - Damian Rosenthal (Manly-Warringah), Andrew Mailer (Ryde City), Omar Obeid (Manly-Warringah Dolphins), Ray Mandic (AC United), Nathan Hall (Ryde City), Peter Antonopoulos (Hurstville City), Peter Apolevski (Hurstville City), Neil Philippou (Stanmore), Daisuke Nakayama (Sydney University), Eric Williams (MSC Liverpool/Sutherland Sharks), Andrew Falas (Stanmore Hawks),

2 - Paul Nero (Ryde City), Andre Glucina (Dulwich Hill), Kingsley Nwaguma (Stanmore Hawks), Ben Burrows (Dulwich Hill), Con Exarhos (Dulwich Hill), Spiro Kladis (Hurstville City), Clint Mayberry (Fraser Park), Paul Wither (Macarthur Rams), Anthony Martin (Manly-Warringah), Daniel Kuziow (MSC Liverpool), Daniel Willoughby (MSC Liverpool), George Kalogeras (Hurstville City), Marcelo Guerrero (Dulwich Hill), Ian King (Fraser Park), Peter Osbourne (Macarthur Rams), Craig Sharpley (Manly-Warringah), Maytham Abdal (AC United), Aheleas Kotsopoulos (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Volkan Kir (Sydney Crescent Star), Jose Mendes (Dulwich Hill), Xavier Snyder (Dulwich Hill), David O'Han (Fraser Park), Steve Kalamvokis (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Andy Kane (Ryde City), Tom Corte (Manly-Warringah), Greg Collins (Fraser Park), Damian Pisano (Ryde City), George Kalogeras (Hurstville Minotaurs), Hakan Sevgin (Sydney Crescent Star), Helder Cardoso (Dulwich Hill), Angelo Petratos (Sydney Crescent Star), Ben Realph (MSC Liverpool),

1 - Michael O'Keefe (Sydney Uni), Peter Farac (Hajduk), Robert Sacco (AC United), Milan Crnokrak (Sutherland), Leo Escalante (Hurstville City), Ben Kirkman (MSC Liverpool), Peter Stegic (Manly-Warringah), Alex Salter (Manly-Warringah), Martin Bourke (Fraser Park), Tony Judge (Sutherland), Tim Spain (MSC Liverpool), Fred Graham (Hurstville City), Shahin Nazifi (Ryde City), Greg Fuchs (Ryde City), John Theodoropoulos (Stanmore Hawks), Jim Melissourgos (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Mirko Jurilj (Sutherland Sharks), Paul Gavaghan (Sydney University), Darrell Fernandes (MSC Liverpool), Kris Holbrook (AC United), Steve Berry (Manly-Warringah Dolphins), Rodrigo Aroni (Manly-Warringah Dolphins), Peter Paras (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Steve Liavas (Stanmore Hawks), Johnathon Pacheco (Macarthur Rams), Vince Gargiulo (Sydney University), Andy Stratford (Ryde City), Eric Papianni (Dulwich Hill), Josh Heath (Sydney University), Ben Murray (MSC Liverpool), George Wakim (A C United), Ryan Manente (Hajduk Wanderers), Tyrone Lara (Sydney University), Ismael Arrarte (Dulwich Hill), Sam Panagakis (Hurstville City), Khan Uysen (Macarthur Rams), Michael McGovern (A C United), Adam Snyder (Sydney University), Nichola Sartini (Ryde City), Andy Christie (Sydney University), Simon Turner (Ryde City), Tim Parker (Macarthur Rams), Hulesi Orhan (Sydney Crescent Star), Paul Candeloni (Sutherland), Mal Bideau (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Jeremy Brown (Sydney University), Milan Cindric (Dulwich Hill), Christian Cevenini (Macarthur Rams), Peter Walker (Macarthur Rams), Ben Delicata (Dulwich Hill), Jerry Barros (Dulwich Hill), Mate Jedinak (Hajduk Wanderers), David Gill (Sydney University), Anthony Driene (MSC Liverpool), Modar Sultan (Hurstville City), Mark Lancaster (Sutherland Sharks), Paul Bourke (Sutherland Sharks), Anthony Hartshorn (Hajduk Wanderers), Max Sevaes (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Wasim Hijazi (Stanmore Hawks), Marc Nicholson (Manly-Warringah), Stuart Banks (Manly-Warringah), Tom Pontidas (Hurstville City Minotaurs), Todd Brodie (Hajduk Wanderers), George Gambrellis (Stanmore Hawks), Eddie Wong (Hajduk Wanderers), Oliver Skelding (Manly-Warringah), Archie Markopoulos (Fraser Park), David Fernandes (Dulwich Hill), Javier Mancino (AC United), Pat Darvall (Sydney University), Enzo Sansone (AC United), George Lagoudakis (Hurstville City), Anthony Kanaan (MSC Liverpool), Nick Mertzanakis (Hurstville Minotaurs), Adam Mammoliti (Sutherland Sharks), Maurice Soler (Stanmore Hawks), Joe Bruni (Sydney Crescent Star), Hugo Coronel (MSC Liverpool), Zarko Glavas (MSC Liverpool), Scott Watkins (MSC Liverpool)



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2003 WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS NIGHT

Macarthur Rams and NSW Sapphires midfielder Michelle Carney, took out Women's Super League Player of the Year award at the Soccer NSW Women's Soccer Presentation Dinner held on Friday night at the Cronulla Sharks Leagues Club.

Not only did Michelle receive the highest honour in the Soccer NSW women's competitions, but also collected the Debbie Tait Memorial award for the top goal scorer in the Women's Super League.

In dramatic circumstances, Carney was unable to accept the award in person on the night as she was involved in a car accident on the way to the event, fortunately escaping any serious injury.

Macarthur Rams coach Steve Marsh, accepted the award on Michelle's behalf and in the process honoured her achievements not only for the Rams, but also for the NSW Sapphires in the Women's National Soccer League.

WOMENS PRESENTATION DINNER 2003 - AWARD WINNERS

Women's Super League 1st Grade Player of the Year - Michelle Carney (Macarthur Rams)

Women's Super League U21's - Shannon Hocking (Mingara Lakers)

Women's State League 1st Grade - Angela Treglia (Roselands Raptors)

Women's State League U21's - Naomi Howell (Roselands Raptors)

Women's Super League Fair Play: Bathurst City Panthers

Women's State League Fair Play: UTS

Women's Super League Goalkeeper of the Year - Simone Czech (Macarthur Rams)

Women's State League Goalkeeper of the Year - Nicole Matak (Schofields Scorpions)

Debbie Tait Memorial Trophy for Women's Super League Leading Goal Scorer of the Year - Michelle Carney (Macarthur Rams)

Women's State League Leading Goal Scorer of the Year - Alex Smith (UNSW)

Women's Super League 1st Grade Premiers - NSW Academy

Women's Super League 1st Grade Runners-up - Olympic Sharks

Women's Super League U21's Premiers - NSW Academy

Women's Super League U21's Runners-up - NNSW Academy

Women's State League 1st Grade Premiers - UNSW

Women's State League 1st Grade Runners-up - Sydney University

Women's State League U21's Premiers - UNSW

Women's State League U21's Runners-up - Granville Association

S.S.I. Girls Youth League Premiers

Grade 12 - Macarthur Rams

Grade 14 - Olympic Sharks

Grade 16 - Southern Branch

Young Matildas - National Talent Identification Squad

Yasmin Favretti, Monique Jackson, Krystle Cassidy, Belinda Ristevski, Cian Maciejewski, Jenna Maciejewski, Briony Holcombe, Kylie Ledbrook, Emma Davison, Leah Blayney, Sally Shipard, Aysha Adalis, Amy Chapman, Catherine Cannuli, Renee Cartwright

Matildas

Kelly Golebiowski, Cassie Kell, Joanne Peters, Taryn Rockall, Thea Slatyer, Danielle Small

Special Awards - for services to Women's Soccer in NSW

Leanne Taylor (Manly Warringah)

Karen Bradley (Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association)





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STATE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

CAMDEN CROWNED CHAMPIONS

Camden Tigers claimed the NSW State League Second Division Championship on Sunday, triumphing over Greystanes in a penalty shoot-out, after scores were still locked at nil-nil after extra time.

It was a cruel way to finish a very hard-fought contest, but Camden deserved the win on balance, dominating the game for long stretches.

Young goalkeeper Jamie Penman was the hero for the Tigers, saving shoot-out penalties from Adrian Jennings and Anthony La Grazia in front of a cheering crowd of around 600.

Francis Park in Blacktown was the venue for this exciting tussle, and it provided a great arena for an absorbing match. The surface itself wasn't so good, though - it was bumpy and clouds of dust wafted skywards after each crunching tackle.

The Camden side, who had finished top of the ladder during the regular season, started the stronger of the two teams, carving out a few half chances in the first twenty minutes.

Greg King and Richard Drinnan were the Tigers' danger men in the early stages, but Greystanes veteran keeper David Apps was able to seize a few of their early efforts.

Mario Rositano was also busy for the Premiers, and he also had a couple of cracking early efforts plucked from the air by Apps.

Greystanes began to play their way into the game as the half progressed, urged on by their giant libero Mark Racker and pacey striker Ahmed Eid.

Both teams opted for a very direct style of play, avoiding the rough surface where possible and lofting through-balls forward into a sea of defensive legs.

The tactic bore no fruit for either side: the scoreboard attendants could be seen dozing in the

shade of the well-appointed Francis Park clubhouse.

Camden had had the edge over Greystanes - who had beaten them in the semi-finals - in the first half but things evened up in the second.

Brad Racker shaved the Camden crossbar with a dipping shot in the 60th minute and Richard Harrison almost buried one for the Tigers in the 63rd, slamming a shot just across the face of the Greystanes goal.

Things continued in the same vein for the remainder of normal time - both sides traded punches without finding a knockout blow.

The closest anyone came was Harrison, whose snap shot in the 90th minute flew into the side netting.

So, extra-time was called for, and still failed to break the deadlock. Towards the end, both teams had players experiencing cramp, and everyone seemed to be waiting for the inevitable.

Many may have expected the experienced Apps to emerge as the penalty king, but he really couldn't have done much to stop four well-placed shots from the Tigers camp.

Dean MacKenzie missed the target for Camden, but Simon Matthews, Mario Rositano, Richard Drinnan and Ross Harrison buried theirs to seal the 4-2 win. It was fitting that Harrison had the final kick, as he had done as much as anyone to create the victory.

The Greystanes camp were terribly disappointed by the loss, but they can take heart from some tenacious play. They were worthy opponents and could have finished

off the match any number of times.

Coach Mark Crittenden has them play a fast and direct style of soccer that is exciting to watch and, seemingly, difficult to play against.

Defender Mark Racker stood out for his solid contribution - he's played at a higher level in the past and could clearly do so again - as did brother Brad and skilled defender Darren Crittenden. Dual strikers Ahmed Eid and Serkan Erel also stood out for the 'Stanes.

Champions Camden can return to Ron Dine reserve in the knowledge that they deserved the championship, even if it took the lottery of penalties to get there.

Penman obviously did well to star in the shoot-out, but the collective team effort was huge.

Richard Harrison was an inspiration down the flanks and Mario Rositano did superbly well to win the ball and set up chances in the centre of midfield.

The pacey Greg King was also a key play in the Tigers' win, even though his first touch let him down on a couple of occasions.

In all, it was a strong performance from a side that looks as if it could make the transition to First Division if required.

GREYSTANES: 1. David Apps, 2. David Johnson, 3. Mark Racker, 4. Stuart McAllister, 5. Darren Crittenden, 6. Adrian Jennings, 12. Ahmed Eid, 8. Adam Lipscomb, 9. Serkan Erel, 10. Brad Racker, 11. Anthony La Grazia.
Substitutes: 7. Robert Gibson, 13. Stephen Connolly, 14. Steven Sterritt, 15. Matthew Hendry, 20. Adam Jaramillo.
Coach: Mark Crittenden

CAMDEN TIGERS: 1. Jamie Penman, 2. Richard Harrison, Lachlan Fetterplace, 4. Paul Dallas, 5. Shayne Borg, 6. Richard Drinnan, 7. Simon Matthews, 8. Mario Rositano, 16. Greg King, 10. Dean MacKenzie, 11. Grant MacKenzie.
Substitutes: 12. Lee Hamilton, 13. Daniel Milne, 14. Greg Neal, 15. Eddie Briscoe, 20. Mark Anderson.
Coach: Eddie Briscoe

Parramatta Star is Born

Parramatta City Sporting Club Inc and Sydney Crescent Star FC Inc are extremely pleased to announce the birth of PARRAMATTA STAR FC Inc - the new Youth League joint venture.

The formation of the alliance between these two clubs brings together many years of experience, knowledge vital resources necessary to successfully compete in the new Youth League football competition.

Parramatta Star will play all their home games at Lidcombe Oval, Lidcombe - the home of Sydney Crescent Star, 2003 Winter Super League premiers.

They will train at Parramatta City's grounds of Eric Primrose Reserve, Rydalmere and Wilson Park, Silverwater.

The playing strip colour will be all white, with an alternative strip of all black, adorn-

ing both club logos on the playing shirts. Many hours of brainstorming, meetings and negotiations between both parties have taken place over the past few months in a bid to forge forward and realise top-line Youth football in the area.

With the co-operation of Soccer NSW, a new executive committee has been formed to oversee the running of this new entity. This executive committee will have full control of the new Youth League club without interference from either parent organisation.

This alliance will focus on the development of its Youth League players, giving them the encouragement and opportunity to progress, enhance their skills, and reach their full playing potential.



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A NEW FACE FOR YOUTH LEAGUE - THE STRUCTURE FOR 2004 & BEYOND

by Barry Davis

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Since the plans to restructure Youth League were announced, the rumour mongers have been having an absolute field day and scaring the living daylights out of officials, coaches, players, parents and soccer supporters.

Their twisting of the facts, distortion of the truth and downright lies have caused a great deal of heartache for many of the honest, hard-working and caring folk within the game.

Now that the final structure has been announced, one would have thought that the rumours, lies and innuendo would have ceased, or at least slowed down significantly, but that has not been the case. In fact, they are as bad as they have ever been and so it is necessary to try to put a halt to them by putting the facts before you, the soccer public.

Let's go back to the beginning. In 2001 a Youth League Advisory Committee was formed to have a long, hard look at the structure of Youth League soccer.

They probed and investigated thoroughly before putting their ideas together in the form of recommendations to the NSW Soccer Federation who, in turn, discussed the matter with the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation and together, as the unified Soccer NSW, they established the criteria by which clubs would be admitted to Youth League Competitions.

That criteria was distributed to clubs in the form of Circular 02/18 dated 7th November, 2002, Circular 03/07 dated 4th July, 2003 and a document titled "Youth League Ground Criteria - 2004". It became clear to all and sundry that every club would need to meet the stated criteria or risk being denied entry to the 2004 Youth League.

Several clubs were able to relax because they knew that they met all the criteria and most of the others busied themselves with the task of ensuring that their shortcomings were addressed in time to satisfy the ground inspections. Some clubs claimed that they were unable to upgrade their facilities until the 2003 season was completed and they still have works in progress as a result.

The simple fact of the matter is that Soccer NSW has recognised that Youth League soccer was always meant to be an "elite level" of junior soccer in this State and so the players competing at that level are entitled to a certain standard of facilities. Those should include the quality the grounds on which they play and train and the standard of coaching they receive.

So let's take a quick look at the clubs who will not be participating in the 2004 Youth League. Firstly, Blacktown Association and Hawkesbury City did not meet the criteria in that their senior teams play in competitions below the minimum prescribed standard of State League Division 1.

Canterbury Bankstown did not apply for inclusion. Mingara Lakers have merged with Central Coast Coasties and the Central Coast Soccer Association to form Central Coast Football Club. MSC Liverpool and Mt Pritchard may have met the ground criteria but the decision had been taken to reduce the number of Youth League clubs within an Association boundary.

The overall performances of the eight clubs within the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association were rated against each other to determine which of these clubs would be included in the 2004 Youth League.

Speaking of the reduction of clubs within Association boundaries, the original intention was to reduce the number of clubs to four in 2004 but Soccer NSW felt that such a move might be too big a jump for one season. Subsequently, they reduced the number of Southern Districts based clubs by two for next season with a further reduction planned for the following year.

That may be only one more club in the final analysis after the merging of Hajduk Wanderers and AC United was announced late last week.

While that merger still needs to be officially approved by Soccer NSW, there is every reason to believe that it will go ahead, reducing the number of Southern Districts clubs to five. At the time of writing, it is understood that the merged club will be called Hajduk Wanderers United.

While on the subject of mergers, we already know that Penrith Panthers have merged with Nepean Association to form Penrith Nepean United, Sydney Crescent Star has combined with Parramatta City to form Parramatta Star and Sydney University have got together with Eastern Suburbs Association to form Sydney University Eastern Lions. As already discussed, Mingara Lakers have joined the Central Coast Football Club.

Regarding the thirty-seven clubs remaining in Youth League, Soccer NSW is satisfied that all but four have fully met the criteria (yes, there are five asterisks but the merger mentioned in the last paragraph reduces that to four) and it is anticipated that those clubs will meet the deadlines imposed on them. If they do, they will stay where they are and if not, Soccer NSW has wisely put in place a contingency plan for all to see.

The question has been asked about players trialling for a club with an asterisk beside their name. After all, the division in which those clubs will play has yet to be determined. The best advice I can offer is for the concerned players and their parents to talk to the club of their choice in an attempt to determine whether or not that club is confident of completing the work in time.

Three new clubs will join Youth League in 2004. Fraser Park/Canterbury is a joint venture between the Super League club and the Canterbury Association while Belmore Hercules will stand alone as a Super League club entered into the Division One (Inter District) Youth League. The inclusion of Bathurst 75/Western is a further boost for youth soccer outside the Sydney basin as this new club follows in the footsteps of Southern Branch, the two

Wollongong clubs, Newcastle United and Central Coast. These three clubs will now have the opportunity to prove themselves worthy of inclusion.

Interestingly, Soccer NSW will enforce minimum coaching standards from 2004 onwards in a further attempt to ensure that Youth League players have every opportunity to improve their abilities. The minimum acceptable standard for each coach will be a "Youth Licence" plus each club must have at least one coach who is in possession of a current "Senior Licence" or "State Licence".

In addition, all clubs must increase the number of Senior Licence coaches by one per season until all their coaches have at least a Senior Licence. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the deduction of competition points and a review of the offending club's Youth League application.

This decision clearly shows that Soccer NSW is serious about developing the standard of Youth League play.

Let's now take a quick look at the geographical breakdown of Youth League 2004. The following Table lists the Associations and the clubs to be found within their boundaries as well as the status of each of those clubs.

PYL = Premier Youth League, SYL = Super Youth League and IDYL = Inter District Youth League. The figures in brackets are the total number of male registrations within that Association.

Blacktown Association 3 clubs (5,928) **Blacktown City PYL**, **Schofields Scorpions SYL**, **Mt Druitt Town Rangers IDYL**

Sutherland Association 2 clubs (11,980)

Olympic Sharks PYL, **Sutherland Shire Sharks PYL**

Southern Districts Association 5 clubs (6,382)

Marconi Stallions PYL, **Sydney United PYL**, **Hajduk Wanderers United PYL**, **Fairfield Bulls SYL**, **Bonnyrigg White Eagles SYL**

Granville Association 4 clubs (9,069) **Parramatta Eagles PYL**, **Hills United SYL**, **Parramatta Star SYL**, **Granville Rage IDYL**

Bankstown Association 1 club (5,743)

Bankstown City Lions PYL

St George Association 3 clubs (6,063)

St George SYL, **Rockdale City Suns IDYL**, **Hurstville City IDYL**

Canterbury Association 5 clubs (8,443)

APIA Leichhardt Tigers PYL, **Fraser Park/Canterbury SYL**, **Stanmore Hawks IDYL**, **Dulwich Hill IDYL**, **Belmore Hercules IDYL**

Macarthur Association 2 clubs (6,372)

Macarthur Rams PYL, **Camden Tigers IDYL**

Nepean Association 1 club (10,741)

Penrith Nepean United SYL

Manly Warringah Association 1 club (10,130)

Manly Warringah Dolphins SYL

Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1 club (10,731)

Northern Tigers SYL

Eastern Suburbs Association 1 club (3,214)

Sydney University Eastern Lions IDYL

Gladesville Hornsby Association 2 clubs (11,770)

Northern Spirit PYL, **Ryde City IDYL**

"Country NSW" (i.e. outside the Sydney Basin) 6 clubs

(Northern NSW) **Newcastle United PYL**, (Central Coast)

Central Coast Coasties PYL, (Illawarra) **Wollongong Wolves PYL**

and **Wollongong United IDYL**, (Southern NSW) **Southern Branch SYL**, (Western NSW) **Bathurst 75/Western**.

There you have it! All the facts and figures for Youth League 2004. There may be changes for 2005 but we can't predict the future. Only the rumour mongers will be able to tell you what will "definitely happen".

I hope this information has cleared up many important matters for you and that it has provided you with the ammunition to use against those nasty story tellers. By the way, if you have any questions regarding the Youth League structure, please refer them to Soccer NSW on 8814 4400 during business hours. The aim of this column has been to provide you with up-to-date information, and I hope it has done that. Thanks to all the readers.

S.S.I. Girls Youth League - The Grand Finals

It is perhaps a fitting tribute to the ever-improving standard of Girls Youth League that they were able to play their Grand Finals on the main ground at Marconi Stadium on Sunday. The skill, athleticism and commitment from the "best-of-the-best" in each age group was fantastic and provided wonderful entertainment for the reasonably large crowd on hand for the event.

Grade 12. Minor Premiers Macarthur Rams had enjoyed the week off but they encountered a very determined Manly Warringah Dolphins who were fresh from the Preliminary Final victory over Nepean. The Dolphins had not beaten the Rams all season but they were not about to let history stand in their way.

The game was on a razor's edge for the first three-quarters-of-an-hour as both teams went at the other in search of a goal that would hopefully give them success. On balance, the Dolphins probably had slightly the better of the game and in the 45th minute Maya Santangelo found the back of the net with a fine goal for the northern beaches club and that proved to be enough in the final analysis. If the future of Girls Youth League rests with these girls and others like them, the game is in very good hands.

Grade 14. What a game this one proved to be! Minor Premiers

Olympic Sharks showed why they were so highly rated throughout the competition as they went at competition runners-up Manly Warringah Dolphins from the very first whistle and they did not have to wait long for a reward. In the third minute of play the Sharks won a free kick some twenty-five metres from goal. Rachel Cowin stepped up to take the kick and promptly found the back of the net to give her team the lead. Eleven minutes later Cara Blake ghosted in at the back post to capitalise on a cross from the left and doubled Olympic's advantage. Within six minutes the Dolphins were back in the game when a shot from Heidi Van Weeren appeared to have been saved but the referee ruled that the ball had crossed the line.

The Sharks resumed from the break looking fresh and they regained their two goal advantage within two minutes when Taylor Goddard found herself on the end of a good attacking move and she smashed the ball home. Olympic dominated play for long periods of the second half but the Dolphins showed that they were far from a spent force with a good goal two minutes from the final whistle. The Sharks goalkeeper had only parried a high ball but Louise Neville had followed through and she was on hand to head the ball into the net. That, however, was too little, too late as the Sharks took out the game 3-2.

Grade 16. Southern Branch went into this match as undefeated Minor Premiers and they were very determined to retain that status against fourth-placed North West Sydney Koalas. In truth, they outclassed the Koalas from the beginning, looking sharper and more skilful in every area of play. In the 9th minute Renee Rollason opened the scoring for the South Nowra based club when she hammered the ball into the roof of the net following some good lead-up play. Two minutes later Rollason was in place again to finish another spell of sustained attacking play and give her team a two goal buffer. At that stage the Koalas strengthened their defensive resolve and denied their opponents further chances to score. They maintained that effort until the eighteenth minute of the second half when Rollason finally broke them down with a skilful run into the box, shrugging off strong challenges from two defenders, before burying a power-laden shot to complete her hat-trick. Southern Branch completed the scoring five minutes from full-time when the Koalas' goalkeeper parried a corner kick and the ball fell for Alison Tremaine who was able to tap it in. After the match we heard that both teams were very young indeed and that most of the players on view were able to play in this age group for at least one more season. That is very, very good news for Girls Youth League.



CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Round 3

| Date | Team A | Goals | Team B | Goals | Age | Date | Team A | Goals | Team B | Goals | Age |
|------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----|------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|-----|
| 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 5 | Manly Warringah | 0 | 10 | 28.09.2003 | G'ville Hornsby | 0 | Macarthur | 2 | 17 |
| 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 0 | Granville | 2 | 10 | 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 2 | Albury Wodonga | 1 | 17 |
| 28.09.2003 | Illawarra | WF | Macarthur | LF | 10 | 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 1 | Manly Warringah | 3 | 18 |
| 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 0 | St.George | 1 | 10 | 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 5 | Granville | 0 | 18 |
| 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 3P | Manly Warringah | 5P | 11 | 28.09.2003 | Illawarra | 1 | Macarthur | 2 | 18 |
| 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 0 | Far North Coast | 4 | 11 | 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 3 | St.George | 2 | 18 |
| 28.09.2003 | Illawarra | 1 | Ku.Ring.Gai | 0 | 11 | 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 4 | Blacktown | 0 | 21 |
| 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 3 | Albury Wodonga | 2 | 11 | 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 6 | Granville | 1 | 21 |
| 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 2 | Manly Warringah | 0 | 12 | 28.09.2003 | Sthn Tabelands | 3P | Macarthur | 4P | 21 |
| 28.09.2003 | Canterbury | 3 | Eastern Suburbs | 0 | 12 | 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 3 | St.George | 2 | 21 |
| 28.09.2003 | Illawarra | 3 | Ku.Ring.Gai | 4 | 12 | 28.09.2003 | Bankstown | 0 | Manly Warringah | 3 | 14W |
| 28.09.2003 | Dubbo | 4 | St.George | 0 | 12 | 28.09.2003 | Central Coast | LF | Far North Coast | WF | 14W |
| 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 3 | Mitchell | 0 | 13 | 28.09.2003 | Nth West Women | 0 | Shoalhaven | 2 | 14W |
| 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 0 | Far North Coast | 1 | 13 | 28.09.2003 | Bankstown | 2 | Manly Warringah | 3 | 16W |
| 28.09.2003 | G'ville Hornsby | 1 | Ku.Ring.Gai | 0 | 13 | 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 2 | Granville | 0 | 16W |
| 28.09.2003 | Dubbo | 3 | St.George | 5 | 13 | 28.09.2003 | Illawarra | 2 | Shoalhaven | 1 | 16W |
| 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 3 | Mitchell | 0 | 14 | 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 4 | St.George | 1 | 16W |
| 28.09.2003 | Canterbury | 4 | Granville | 1 | 14 | 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 0 | Manly Warringah | 8 | AA |
| 28.09.2003 | G'ville Hornsby | 3 | Macarthur | 1 | 14 | 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 2 | Holiday Coast | 1 | AA |
| 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 1 | St.George | 0 | 14 | 28.09.2003 | G'ville Hornsby | 5 | Shoalhaven | 4 | AA |
| 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 2 | Blacktown | 4 | 15 | 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 5 | Sydney Amateur Lge | 0 | AA |
| 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 0 | Holiday Coast | 1 | 15 | 28.09.2003 | Sthn Districts | 0 | Manly Warringah | 1 | AAW |
| 28.09.2003 | Illawarra | 5 | Macarthur | 1 | 15 | 28.09.2003 | Central Coast | 4 | Holiday Coast | 5 | AAW |
| 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 0 | St.George | 1 | 15 | 28.09.2003 | Nth West Women | 1 | Shoalhaven | 0 | AAW |
| 28.09.2003 | Bankstown | 0 | Manly Warringah | 3 | 16 | 28.09.2003 | Dubbo | 1 | St.George | 2 | AAW |
| 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 2 | Granville | 0 | 16 | 28.09.2003 | Bankstown | LF | Manly Warringah | WF | 035 |
| 28.09.2003 | Illawarra | 2 | Ku.Ring.Gai | 1 | 16 | 28.09.2003 | Sutherland | 3 | Eastern Suburbs | 2 | 035 |
| 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 1 | St.George | 0 | 16 | 28.09.2003 | G'ville Hornsby | 1 | Ku.Ring.Gai | 6 | 035 |
| 28.09.2003 | Bankstown | 3 | Blacktown | 5 | 17 | 28.09.2003 | Nepean | 2 | Sydney Amateur Lge | 3 | 035 |
| 28.09.2003 | Canterbury | 3 | Granville | 1 | 17 | | | | | | |



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ITALIAN SERIE A

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

Hooliganism has struck again in Italian football and it seems to be especially chronic in the lower divisions. The scenes at the recent Serie B clash between Avellino and Napoli were particularly disturbing.

A young man, Sergio Ercolano, lost his life after plunging 20 metres to the ground after a plexiglass roof collapsed under the weight of supporters jumping into the stadium.

The emergency services had trouble getting aid to Ercolano and this brought about an angry response from hundreds of Napoli supporters who went on the rampage. The scenes were absolutely disgusting.

Police and ambulance officers claimed that they would have reached Ercolano sooner had these hooligans not assaulted them.

The trouble seemed to have started after several Napoli supporters, who normally gain free entry at their home ground, went to nearby Avellino's ground without a ticket for this local derby.

So what is possibly the solution to this latest episode of violence at a football stadium in Italy? Make teams play matches behind closed doors seems to be the preferred option.

Furthermore, one hopes that the authorities can identify troublemakers and punish them accordingly and that the community is made explicitly aware, perhaps through television advertising, that this social problem is totally unacceptable in modern society.

How can so-called supporters go to a football match with balaclavas over their heads? Where did they get access to the sticks that they used to hit police officers? These are just some questions which need addressing.

The Italian Federation gave Napoli with a five-match stadium ban as punishment. Their first 'home' match on the weekend (1-1 draw against Ascoli) was in Campobasso.

The club must play five home games behind closed doors and away from its San Paolo Stadium. The Italian Federation had little choice and must be seen to be trying to get tough on anti-social and violent behaviour.

Even the President of Italy, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, an elderly, eloquent and elegant statesman, was quoted as saying that these hooligans had brought shame to Italy. He pleaded with fans all over Italy to behave themselves at football matches. Let's hope that they are listening.

In Parma's recent away win at the Olympic Stadium in Rome over Lazio, it was great to see Mark Bresciano, the former Carlton NSL player, scoring two fabulous goals for Parma. That brace took his tally to three goals in two weeks.

It seems to be a remarkable turnaround for Bresciano who couldn't score at all last year for Parma. He sat on the bench and was rarely given any time on the field.

However, this year with Parma off-loading some players such as Adrian Mutu to Chelsea, it leaves Bresciano with a lot more opportunities. Coach Cesare Prandelli has been very happy with Bresciano recently and it will take a lot for him to lose his place in the team.

It was also nice to hear Bresciano dedicate his two goals to his parents back in Melbourne in a post match interview with Italian television.

Bresciano has not only been outstanding for Parma but also for the Socceroos in their recent encounters with Ireland and Jamaica.

Roberto Baggio is back. In Brescia's recent high scoring 4-4 draw with Reggina, the great player missed a penalty which would have given Brescia all three points.

Baggio is 36 years old (he turns 37 in February) and is still a vital part of Brescia's team. There was speculation that he might retire because he was injured and his favourite coach, Carlo Mazzone, had moved from Brescia to Bologna.

However, fans of Baggio need not have worried as he will grace the Serie A pitches for at least one more season.

Baggio, who represented Italy on 55 occasions but it should have been a lot more had Arrigo Sacchi and Giovanni Trapattoni not have had personality clashes with him, was undoubtedly the most influential player of his era for the Azzurri.

Meanwhile Sydney listeners can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news.

REGGINA0 JUVENTUS2

Marco Di Vaio took advantage of injuries to fellow Juventus strikers Alessandro Del Piero and David Trezeguet to stake his claim for a regular starting place by helping the defending champions clinch a 2-0 victory at Reggina.

Di Vaio followed his double strike in last week's 2-2 draw with Roma by putting the Turin side in front after 12 minutes.

Pavel Nedved doubled the lead five minutes after half-time as Juve notched up a third win from the opening four matches of the new season.

UDINESE0 INTER MILAN0

Inter Milan were held to a second successive goalless stalemate, this time in an often bad-tempered match at Udinese where both teams finished a man down.

Inter's Luciano was the first player to be red-carded, harshly given his marching order for a tackle which looked more meriting of a booking.

Udinese then wasted the game's best chance when David Pizarro fired wide from the penalty spot after Thomas Helveg was adjudged to have fouled Dino Fava in the area.

The home side were reduced to 10 men late on when Per Kroldrup was dismissed for foul play.

CHIEVO VERONA4 PERUGIA1

An impressive display from Luigi Del Neri's side who dominated after Andrea Zanchetta fired them ahead five minutes before the break with a thundering free-kick from 30 metres out.

Perugia pulled level when Marco Di Loreto took advantage of an error by Chievo keeper Luca Marchegiani but then a Zanchetta penalty swiftly restored Chievo's lead.

Franco Semioli made it 3-1 in the 66th minute after a poor defensive header from Di Loreto and then Argentine Mario Santana rounded off the win with a crisp right-foot drive.

EMPOLI2 LAZIO3

After Lazio had an early effort from Claudio Lopez ruled out for offside, they took the lead in the 38th minute through Serbian Dejan Stankovic,

SERIE B

Atalanta 2 Cagliari 1, Bari 0 Albinoletto 1, Catania 1 Messina 0, Fiorentina 2 Piacenza 1, Livorno 2 Salernitana 0, Napoli 1 Ascoli 1, Pescara 1 Triestina 0, Ternana 1 Genoa 0, Torino 2 Palermo 1, Treviso 2 Como 0, Venezia 2 Avellino 1, Vicenza 1 Verona 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|
| 1. Catania | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | -6 | 13 |
| 2. Ternana | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 9 | -4 | 12 |
| 3. Torino | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 9 | -4 | 12 |
| 4. Atalanta | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 8 | -3 | 11 |
| 5. Cagliari | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 11 | -4 | 10 |
| 6. Verona | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 8 | -6 | 9 |
| 7. Livorno | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | -5 | 8 |
| 8. Triestina | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | -7 | 8 |
| 9. Palermo | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | -4 | 8 |
| 10. Piacenza | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | -3 | 8 |
| 11. Ascoli | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | -5 | 8 |
| 12. Treviso | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | -2 | 7 |
| 13. Albinoletto | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | -5 | 7 |
| 14. Pescara | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | -6 | 7 |
| 15. Fiorentina | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | -5 | 6 |
| 16. Napoli | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | -5 | 4 |
| 17. Bari | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | -9 | 4 |
| 18. Venezia | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | -7 | 4 |
| 19. Como | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | -10 | 4 |
| 20. Vicenza | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | -6 | 3 |
| 21. Messina | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | -7 | 3 |
| 22. Avellino | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | -5 | 2 |
| 23. Salernitana | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | -7 | 2 |
| 24. Genoa | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | -6 | 1 |



Action from the Juventus and Reggina clash from last weekend.

whose fine shot from the edge of the Empoli area took a slight deflection.

Empoli were a different side after the interval and deservedly drew level in the 74th minute when Antonio Di Natale lobbed the advancing Lazio keeper Angelo Peruzzi after racing on to a long ball over the top.

Three minutes later Empoli took the lead when Di Natale turned provider with a beautiful through ball which Francesco Tavano blasted past Peruzzi.

The Tuscan side looked poised for their first win of the season until three minutes from the end when Stefano Fiore converted after being put in on goal by a delightful back-heeled pass from Simone Inzaghi.

It was a better display from Empoli who have started slowly this season but from reports look to gain more confidence as the weeks go by.

AC MILAN3 LECCE0

It was the Andriy Shevchenko show at the San Siro as the Ukrainian slotted Milan ahead in the 21st minute after Rui Costa had struck the post for the European champions.

Shevchenko's second, in the 69th minute, was a stunner as he jinked past three challenges before burying the ball in the near corner of the net.

Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson completed a comfortable win a minute from the end, tapping in after Kaka had lobbed Shevchenko's cross goal-bound.

MODENA2 BOLOGNA0

Modena's first win of the season was fully deserved against a Bologna side that have yet to find their stride.

The much-travelled Nicola Amoroso sent the home side on their way with a cool finish at the end of a swift counter-attack and then Diomansy Kamara made it 2-0 five minutes before the interval after good work from Riccardo Allegretti.

PARMA1 SIENA1

A disappointing result and display from Parma who struggled to get back into the game after Serb Nikola Lazetic beat Sebastian Frey at his near post in the 41st minute.

Hesitation in the Siena defence allowed Brazilian Adriano to sneak in for Parma's equaliser in the 79th minute but promoted Siena will be the more encouraged by the point.

AS ROMA3 ANCONA0

A double substitution at the break from Roma coach Fabio Capello turned the game around with sub Vincenzo Montella breaking the deadlock three minutes into the second half after being put through by Brazilian full-back Mancini.

Mancini set up the second for Francesco Totti, a smart free-kick being whipped home by the Roma skipper before two subs combined for the late third goal as Marco Delvecchio headed in Traianos Dellas' cross.

SAMPDORIA2 BRESCIA1

Two goals inside the final three minutes turned the game around for Sampdoria after Stefano Mauri had given Brescia the lead in the 69th minute.

Fabio Bazzani fired Samp level as he latched on to a great pass from Francesco Flachi and then Flachi himself grabbed the winner from the spot after Brescia keeper Luca Castellazzi's wild challenge on Japanese striker Atsushi Yanagisawa.

FIXTURES

Sunday 5th October

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| Ancona | v | Udinese |
| Empoli | v | Modena |
| Inter | v | Milan |
| Juventus | v | Bologna |
| Lazio | v | Chievo |
| Lecce | v | Brescia |
| Parma | v | Sampdoria |
| Perugia | v | Reggina |

SERIE A

Chievo Verona 4 Perugia 1, AC Milan 3 Lecce 0, Modena 2 Bologna 0, Parma 1 Siena 1, AS Roma 3 Ancona 0, Sampdoria 2 Brescia 1, Reggina 0 Juventus 2, Udinese 0 Inter Milan 0, Empoli 2 Lazio 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Roma | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 10 |
| 2 Juventus | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 10 |
| 3 Milan | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| 4 Parma | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 Internazionale | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| 6 Lazio | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| 7 Chievo | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 Siena | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 Sampdoria | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 10 Bologna | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 11 Modena | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 12 Udinese | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| 13 Reggina | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 14 Lecce | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 3 |
| 15 Brescia | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 2 |
| 16 Perugia | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 2 |
| 17 Empoli | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 2 |
| 18 Ancona | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 |



ENGLISH



PREMIER LEAGUE

Birmingham City 2 Portsmouth 0, Bolton 1 Wolverhampton 1, Chelsea 1 Aston Villa 0, Leicester City 1 Manchester Utd 4, Southampton 0 Middlesbrough 1, Arsenal 3 Newcastle Utd 2, Charlton 3 Liverpool 2, Blackburn 0 Fulham 2, Everton 4 Leeds United 0, Manchester City 0 Tottenham 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Arsenal | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 5 | 17 |
| Chelsea | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 6 | 16 |
| Man Utd | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Birmingham | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 14 |
| Man City | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 12 |
| Southampton | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Fulham | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 11 |
| Liverpool | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 11 |
| Portsmouth | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| Everton | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 8 |
| Blackburn | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 8 |
| Charlton | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 8 |
| Aston Villa | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 7 |
| Middlesbrough | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 7 |
| Bolton | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 7 |
| Leicester | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 5 |
| Tottenham | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 5 |
| Leeds | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 5 |
| Newcastle | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 3 |
| Wolverhampton | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 18 | 2 |

FIRST DIVISION

West Ham 1 Millwall 1, Bradford 1 Sheffield United 2, Cardiff 3 Crewe 0, Coventry 1 Wigan 1, Norwich 2 Crystal Palace 1, Nottingham Forest 1 Derby 1, Rotherham 1 Gillingham 1, Sunderland 2 Reading 0, Walsall 2 Preston 1, Watford 1 Ipswich 2, West Bromwich 1 Stoke 0, Wimbledon 2 Burnley 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Sheffield United | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 9 | 20 |
| 2. Wigan | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 6 | 20 |
| 3. West Bromwich | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 19 |
| 4. Norwich | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 17 |
| 5. West Ham | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 17 |
| 6. Sunderland | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 8 | 16 |
| 7. Nottingham Forest | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 11 | 16 |
| 8. Millwall | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 16 |
| 9. Cardiff | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 12 | 14 |
| 10. Reading | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 14 |
| 11. Burnley | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 17 | 13 |
| 12. Crewe | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 13 |
| 13. Gillingham | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 13 |
| 14. Stoke | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| 15. Crystal Palace | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| 16. Ipswich | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 11 |
| 17. Preston | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 13 | 10 |
| 18. Bradford | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 10 |
| 19. Walsall | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| 20. Coventry | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 14 | 9 |
| 21. Derby | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 15 | 9 |
| 22. Rotherham | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 6 |
| 23. Watford | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 4 |
| 24. Wimbledon | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 12 | 24 | 4 |

SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool 2 Notts County 1, Chesterfield 1 Brentford 2, Colchester Utd 1 Bournemouth 0, Hartlepool Utd 0 Brighton & Hove 0, Oldham 3 Luton Town 0, Plymouth Argyle 2 Barnsley 0, Port Vale 1 Wycombe 1, QPR 1 Bristol City 1, Rushden & Diamonds 2 Stockport 2, Sheff. Wednesday 0 Grimsby Town 0, Swindon 2 Peterborough Utd 0, Tranmere 1 Wrexham 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Port Vale | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 13 | 20 |
| Swindon | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 11 | 19 |
| Brighton | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 18 |
| QPR | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 19 | 9 | 17 |
| Plymouth | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 21 | 15 | 17 |
| Colchester | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 17 |
| Hartlepool | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 20 | 11 | 16 |
| Barnsley | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 16 |
| Sheff Wed | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 15 |
| Bournemouth | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 15 |
| Bristol City | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 14 |
| Rushden & D'monds | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 14 |
| Wrexham | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 14 |
| Luton | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 15 | 14 |
| Blackpool | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 17 | 14 |
| Oldham | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 16 | 13 |
| Brentford | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 13 |
| Grimsby | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 18 | 12 |
| Peterborough | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 9 |
| Tranmere | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 8 |
| Stockport | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 19 | 7 |
| Wycombe | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 21 | 6 |
| Notts County | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 20 | 6 |

CHELSEA1 ASTON VILLA0

Chelsea failed to spark against a hard-working Villa side but showed they can battle by hanging on for an important 1-0 win.

After struggling for cohesion for most of the first half, Chelsea broke through two minutes before the break when Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink was on hand to ram in a loose ball after Thomas Sorensen had parried a Frank Lampard shot.

Juan Pablo Angel missed a great chance to equalise early in the second half when he headed wide and the inform Colombian striker was guilty of another bad miss two minutes from time.

LEICESTER0 MAN UTD4

Ruud van Nistelrooy's hat-trick and a classy return for Paul Scholes after a month's injury absence were the highlights of United's 4-0 stroll at Leicester.

They went ahead after 15 minutes when Scholes chipped in for Roy Keane, who expertly killed the ball with one touch and scored with his second.

It was 2-0 a minute later when Van Nistelrooy seized on a Scholes shot to score from 12 metres and the Dutchman got his second just before halftime after another piece of excellent control.



Manchester United FC striker Ruud van Nistelrooy celebrates scoring against Leicester City FC.

Van Nistelrooy completed his hat-trick seven minutes after the restart with Frank Sinclair pulling one back in the 73rd minute with a header.

CHARLTON3 LIVERPOOL2

A hat-trick by Jamaican striker Kevin Lisbie gave Charlton Athletic a pulsating 3-2 victory over Liverpool at The Valley.

Czech midfielder Vladimir Smicer gave Liverpool an early lead, brilliantly put through by Socceroo playmaker Harry Kewell, but a double strike by Lisbie put Charlton in front just before the break.

England striker Michael Owen equalised within minutes of the restart from the penalty spot but Lisbie, who has been regularly barracked by Charlton fans, answered his critics in style with a superb solo winner in the 83rd minute.

Kewell hit the woodwork in stoppage time but Charlton held on for a first home league win of the season.



Kevin Phillips of Southampton is sent off during the FA Barclaycard Premiership match between Southampton and Middlesbrough at St. Mary's Stadium.

BIRMINGHAM ...2 PORTSMOUTH ...0

Birmingham continued their good start to the season with a deserved 2-0 win over new boys Portsmouth.

Stephen Clemence poked Birmingham ahead after 21 minutes and set up the second with a long ball into the path of Australian Stan Lazaridis five minutes into the second half.

Portsmouth, who began their return to the Premier League with a five game unbeaten run, have now lost their last two.

BOLTON1 WOLVES1

Wolves looked on course for their first win of the season but can have no complaints about the justice of Bolton's late equaliser.

Wolves had not managed a shot during the opening half hour but went ahead when Alex Rae volleyed in from 30 metres in a strike that is already a contender for goal of the season.

Bolton poured on the pressure and got their deserved equaliser five minutes from time through a shot by Kevin Davies.

SOUTHAMPTON .0 MIDDLESBROUGH 1

Southampton slumped to their first home defeat after going down to Middlesbrough 1-0 at St Mary's. The win was Boro's first on the road this season.

Boro scored out of the blue when Malcolm Christie lashed in a shot from outside the box after 13 minutes, the first goal Southampton have conceded at home this season.

Southampton had most of the possession without creating too many clear chances and Middlesbrough goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer was equal to everything they could muster.

Saints striker Kevin Phillips was sent off in injury time for lashing out at Franck Queudrue.

ARSENAL3 NEWCASTLE UTD 2

Arsenal ended a bad week well as Thierry Henry's 80th-minute penalty won a game in which they had twice led. Twice they led, through Henry (18) and Gilberto Silva (67), but twice Newcastle hit back quickly, through Laurent Robert (26) and Olivier Bernard (71) before Henry's dinked penalty settled it after a silly handball by Jermaine Jenas.

BLACKBURN0 FULHAM2

Fulham took the game to Graeme Souness's men and fully deserved the points at Ewood Park.

Luis Boa Morte tapped Fulham into a fifth minute lead, the Portuguese striker converting a cut-back from French team mate Steed Malbranque after a break down the right.

Another Frenchman, Louis Saha, hit the second soon after the re-start as Chris Coleman's men made sure of the points, despite a late chip shot from Rovers' Andy Cole hitting the bar.

EVERTON4 LEEDS UTD0

Steve Watson became the weekend's third hat-trick scorer as he guided Everton to a one-sided victory at Goodison Park.

Watson struck twice in the first half, the first from a Duncan Ferguson pass and the second a long-range lob, and there was still time before the break for Ferguson to head a third. Watson got his third of the day soon after the re-start as David Moyes' men cruised to victory.

MAN CITY0 TOTTENHAM0

Spurs held out for a point for caretaker manager David Pleat after City dominated possession but failed to take their many chances to break the deadlock.

City did everything but score in a one-sided first-half with Spurs skipper Stephen Carr clearing off the line from French striker Nicolas Anelka. The lack of finishing continued in the second half while Spurs' Ireland striker Robbie Keane nearly snatched a stoppage time winner with an overhead shot. Gianluca Vialli is rumored to be after the Spurs coach as the post-match press conference concluded.

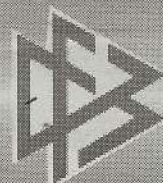
FIXTURES

Saturday 4th October

| | | |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| Aston Villa | v | Bolton |
| Fulham | v | Leicester |
| Leeds | v | Blackburn |
| Liverpool | v | Arsenal |
| Man Utd | v | Birmingham |
| Middlesbrough | v | Chelsea |
| Newcastle | v | Southampton |
| Portsmouth | v | Charlton |
| Tottenham | v | Everton |
| Wolverhampton | v | Man City |



German Bundesliga



Vfb Stuttgart maintained their lead in the Bundesliga with a 3-0 win over 1860 Munich at the Olympic Stadium, while reigning champions Bayern needed another Roy Makaay strike to net a 2-1 win over Hansa Rostock.

The Stuttgart rearguard has now not been breached in seven Bundesliga matches and goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand just needs to fend off the Cologne attack for 68 minutes next week to break the record of Bayern Munich custodian Oliver Kahn which stands at 802 minutes.

Bayern needed a late strike from Dutch striker Makaay to steal all three points against Hansa Rostock at the Ostseestadion.

The Dutchman scored his fifth goal in four matches with four minutes remaining to get a makeshift Bayern back to winning ways.

Bayer Leverkusen ended VfL Wolfsburg's perfect percent record at the Volkswagen Arena with a 1-0 triumph to continue their impressive start to the new season, although coach Klaus Augenthaler conceded his team were fortunate.

Wolfsburg had won all their games at home this season, with 11 goals in the three matches, but fell to a narrow defeat.



Jurica Vranjes of Stuttgart and Janne Saarinen of Munich in action during the Bundesliga match between TSV 1860 Munich and VfB Stuttgart.

German international Bernd Schneider scored the decisive goal to help Bayer to keep pace at the top of the table, although they slip to third after Werder Bremen's 4-1 thrashing of Cologne.

French playmaker Johan Micoud headed the visitors into the lead on 10 minutes and was the inspiration behind a comfortable victory that took Werder Bremen up to second. Croatian forward Ivan Klasnic, Canada midfielder Paul Stalteri and Greek striker Angelos Charisteas also scored for the visitors, who totally outplayed their struggling hosts.

Bottom club Cologne, whose coach Friedhelm Funkel faces an uncertain future, were 3-0 down when striker Matthias Scherz scored their goal.

Brazilian striker Ewerthon thrilled 78,000 fans when he gave a depleted Dortmund side a timely 1-0 victory over Freiburg with a superb angled effort from the side of the box in the 68th minute.

Two goals, including a late equaliser from striker Arie van Lent, saved new Moenchengladbach coach Holger Fach from starting with a defeat as his men managed a 2-2 home draw with Bochum.

Senegal striker Mamadou Diabang and Denmark forward Peter Madsen scored for Bochum, who have now gone four matches without defeat.

Kaiserslautern needed a header two minutes into stoppage time from Germany striker Miroslav Klose

for a 1-0 victory over Hannover, easing the pressure on coach Erik Gerets.

Eintracht Frankfurt picked up a point from their away game against Schalke 04, who could have moved ninth with a victory. Dario Rodriguez gave the visitors the lead with a 33rd-minute header but Brazilian Chris equalised before half-time.

Hertha Berlin thought they had recorded their first win of the season when they entered added time against Hamburger protecting a 1-0 lead courtesy of Arne Friedrich's 32nd-minute goal. But defender Björn Schlike had other ideas, rescuing a draw for visiting Hamburg at the death.

Kaiserslautern 1 Hannover 0, Hansa Rostock 1 Bayern Munich 2, Cologne 1 Werder Bremen 4, Borussia Dortmund 1 Freiburg 0, TSV 1860 Munich 0 VfB Stuttgart 3, Borussia M'gladbach 2 VfL Bochum 2, VfL Wolfsburg 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1, Hertha Berlin 1 Hamburg 1, Schalke 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Stuttgart | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 17 |
| 2 Bremen | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 16 |
| 3 Leverkusen | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 16 |
| 4 Bayern | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 14 |
| 5 Dortmund | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 13 |
| 6 Wolfsburg | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 12 |
| 7 Hannover | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 13 | 11 |
| 8 1860 München | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 10 |
| 9 Freiburg | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 9 |
| 10 Bochum | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| 11 Kaiserslautern | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| 12 Schalke | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 7 |
| 13 Hansa | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 5 |
| 14 Hertha | 7 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 5 |
| 15 Eintracht | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 5 |

FIXTURES

October 4th 2003

| | | |
|---------------|----|----------------|
| Hannover | vs | Schalke |
| E.Frankfurt | vs | B.Dortmund |
| Freiburg | vs | 1860 Munich |
| VfB Stuttgart | vs | FC Cologne |
| Werder Bremen | vs | Wolfsburg |
| B.Leverkusen | vs | Hansa Rostock |
| B.Munich | vs | Hertha Berlin |
| Hamburg SV | vs | M'gladbach |
| Bochum | vs | Kaiserslautern |



Spanish Primera Liga



Valencia sit top of the Spanish first division following a 2-0 victory over Real Madrid as Deportivo La Coruna lost their 100 percent record by going down 3-2 at Osasuna.

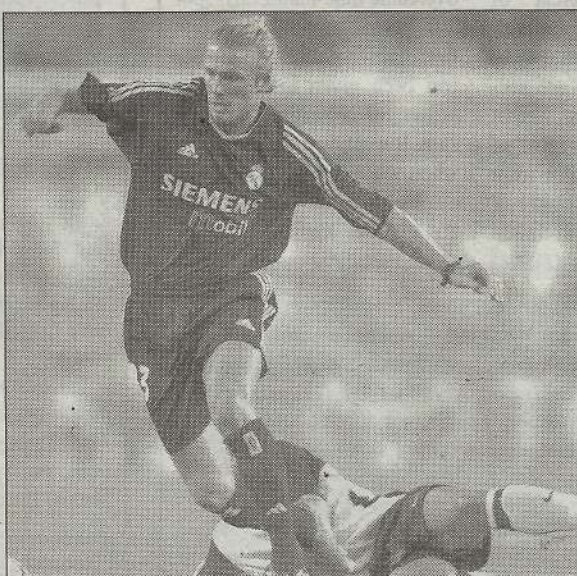
The 2001-02 champions took the lead over reigning Spanish champions after just five minutes when Mista Ferrer put Valencia ahead when he latched onto a Jorge Lopez cross.

Valencia suffered a setback after the break when their Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar limped off injured, but his replacement Ricardo Oliveira sealed the triumph with the second goal after 72 minutes.

The Brazilian's first league goal for his new club, after arriving from Santos, was tapped in after Roberto Carlos had headed clear an initial effort from Ruben Baraja.

Osasuna had Deportivo beaten within 25 minutes after going 3-0 ahead, helped principally by the visitors' errors.

Francisco Punal got the Pamplona-based side's



David Beckham of Real Madrid breaks away from Vicente of Valencia during the Spanish Primera Liga match between Valencia and Real Madrid.

first goal from the penalty spot on 20 minutes and three minutes later, Mocha's centre was fumbled by Deportivo goalkeeper Francisco Molina and the ball fell to the feet of Ibrahima Bakayoko, who laid it on for Ivan Rosado to tap into the net.

Hector's miserable night continued on 25 minutes when he headed an effort from Osasuna's Valdo into his own net.

Deportivo got one back when Albert Luque headed home before Walter Pandiani got a second for Deportivo one minute into injury time, the sixth consecutive game in which the Uruguayan has scored.

Tiko unleashed a left-foot thunderbolt from 30

metres to give Athletic a 1-0 victory in a frantic game which produced 12 yellow cards.

Celta Vigo had to come from two goals down to record their first win of the season, eventually edging visiting Valladolid 3-2.

Ariza Makukula was the man who contributed most to Celta's early misery, scoring after just four minutes and again in the 49th minute.

Jesuli Mora was credited with Celta's first after 55 minutes, although the ball took a deflection off Valladolid's Julio Cesar.

The Galicians drew level after 72 minutes through a Savo Milosevic header, before Alexander Mostovoi headed Celta's winner nine minutes later.

Albacete claimed their first points since returning to the Primera Liga with a 2-0 win over Real Mallorca at the Carlos Belmonte stadium.

Malaga also gained their first win of the season with a 2-1 victory away to Espanyol, the goals coming from Uruguayan midfielder Marcelo Romero and recent signing Salva Ballesta.

Both Phillip Cocu and Thiago Motta were sent off as Barcelona - who picked up four more bookings - managed to collect a point in a scoreless draw against Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderón stadium. The home team also had four players cautioned in a fiery encounter.

Villarreal also won on their travels courtesy of a 2-0 defeat of Real Racing Club Santander. Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson and Argentinian midfield

player Juan Román Riquelme were the players on target.

Real Betis were another team to win on the road, beating Real Zaragoza 1-0 thanks to a late strike from Brazilian midfielder Marcos Assunção.

Antoñito's solitary goal, meanwhile, was enough for Sevilla to defeat Real Murcia 1-0.

Valencia 2 Real Madrid 0, Osasuna 3 Deportivo 2, Athletic Bilbao 1 Real Sociedad 0, Celta Vigo 3 Valladolid 2, Albacete 2 Real Mallorca 0, Espanyol 1 Malaga 2, Racing Santander 0 Villarreal 2, Real Zaragoza 0 Real Betis 1, Atletico Madrid 0 Barcelona 0, Sevilla 1 Murcia 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Valencia | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| 2 Deportivo | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 12 |
| 3 Real Madrid | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 10 |
| 4 Osasuna | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 10 |
| 5 Villarreal | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 Barcelona | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 7 Real Sociedad | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 Betis | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 Sevilla | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| 10 Athletic | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| 11 Valladolid | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 12 | 7 |
| 12 Celta | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| 13 Racing | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| 14 Malaga | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 15 Atlético | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 16 Mallorca | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| 17 Zaragoza | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| 18 Murcia | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 19 Albacete | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| 20 Espanyol | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 2 |

FIXTURES

Sunday 5th October

| | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| Barcelona | v | Valencia |
| Deportivo | v | Atlético |
| Mallorca | v | Osasuna |
| Murcia | v | Albacete |
| R Sociedad | v | Sevilla |
| Betis | v | Athletic |
| Villarreal | v | Zaragoza |
| Valladolid | v | Racing |
| Malaga | v | Celta |
| R Madrid | v | Espanyol |



Dutch Eredivisie

Ajax Amsterdam thrashed Willem II 6-0 to depose champions PSV Eindhoven at the top of the Dutch first division.

Goals from strikers Wesley Sonck and Zlatan Ibrahimovic gave Ajax a 2-0 first-half lead. Wesley Sneijder and Victor Sikora made it 4-0 after an hour before Tom Soetaers and Steven Pienaar completed the rout.

Feyenoord stayed in touch with the leaders after a 3-0 win at struggling Zwolle moved them up four places to sixth.

Shinji Ono scored twice for the Rotterdam side while Anthony Lurling also netted. All the goals came in the second half as Feyenoord initially struggled to break down Zwolle, who sacked coach Peter Boeve on Friday.

PSV Eindhoven suffered a surprise 0-1 home defeat to AZ Alkmaar, marking the Eredivisie champions' first loss of the new season.

Robin Nelisse was the hero for Alkmaar, scoring what proved to

comfortable 3-0 win over Twente, who remain point-less on the road.

Richard Knopper gave the home side a ninth-minute lead, and former Sheffield Wednesday and Ajax man Sibon doubled the lead six minutes later.

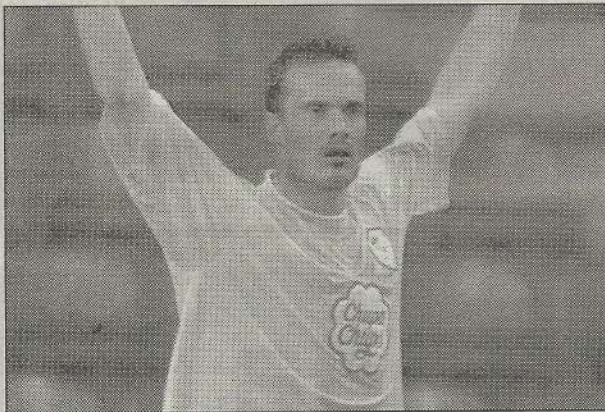
Sibon netted his second on the hour to complete the win, and move his side into the European places, for 24 hours at least.

RBC Roosendaal and Volendam shared the spoils after an evenly contested clash at the Vast & Goed stadium.

The away side, looking for their first win on the road this term, took the lead five minutes before the break thanks to Jack Tuyt's strike.

RBC remain winless at home, but they earned a point from this contest in the second half when Sammy Youssouf levelled matters in the 64th minute.

RKC Waalwijk are fourth after a 2-0 home win over NAC Breda, who suffered a 5-0 defeat by Newcastle United in the UEFA Cup in midweek. Serginho Greene



Gerald Sibon: Heerenveen striker bagged two goals against FC Twente Enschede in their three-nil victory last week.

be the winning goal 17 minutes from time.

Alkmaar it alongside PSV on the Eredivisie table after this famous win, but trail the defending champions on goal difference.

Gerald Sibon scored twice as Heerenveen extended their perfect home record to three games with a

and Iwan Redan, with his fifth of the season, got the goals.

ADO Den Haag, with a 2-1 away success at NEC Nijmegen, and Vitesse Arnhem, who also won 3-1 away at Utrecht, picked up their first victories of the season.

Zwolle 0 Feyenoord 3, Ajax Amsterdam 6 Willem II Tilburg 0, RKC Waalwijk 2 NAC Breda 0, NEC Nijmegen 1 ADO Den Haag 2, Roda JC Kerkrade 0 Groningen 0, Utrecht 1 Vitesse 3, PSV Eindhoven 0 AZ Alkmaar 1, Heerenveen 3 Twente Enschede 0, RBC Roosendaal 1 Volendam 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Ajax Amsterdam | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 15 |
| 2. PSV Eindhoven | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 13 |
| 3. AZ Alkmaar | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 13 |
| 4. RKC Waalwijk | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 12 |
| 5. Heerenveen | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| 6. Feyenoord | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 10 |
| 7. Willem II Tilburg | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 10 |
| 8. NEC Nijmegen | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| 9. RBC Roosendaal | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| 10. Groningen | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 11. NAC Breda | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| 12. Roda JC | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| 13. Twente Enschede | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 6 |
| 14. Vitesse Arnhem | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 15. Volendam | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 16. ADO Den Haag | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| 17. Utrecht | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| 18. Zwolle | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 1 |

Turkish Super League

Besiktas JK outclassed Trabzonspor 5-0 at the İnönü stadium on Sunday to maintain their three-point lead at the top of the Turkish Super League.

Besiktas, who face unbeaten English Premiership side Chelsea FC in the UEFA Champions League in mid-week, went ahead in the 34th minute through Ilhan Mansiz before defender Emre Asik doubled the lead eight minutes later. Striker Fatih Tekke did the struggling away side no favours when he was sent off on the cusp of half-time for dissent.

Mansiz made the most of the numerical advantage almost immediately by collecting his second goal just after the interval and Egyptian midfielder player Ahmed Hassan added a further two goals to complete the scoring.

Istanbulspor AS were condemned to their first league defeat of the season at MKE Ankaragücü on Saturday, going down 2-1. Despite taking the lead in the 24th minute through Elvir Bolic, the home side levelled when Ramadan Ragap was on target. Umut Bulut hit the winner in added time and there was still time for Musa Kus to receive his marching orders to cap a disappointing afternoon for the visitors.

Gençlerbirliği SK suffered a UEFA Cup hangover after their impressive 3-1 defeat of Blackburn Rovers FC in mid-week when they lost 1-0 to Fenerbahçe SK, who are second in the standings. Serhat Akin scored the only goal of the game seven minutes from time, controlling a long ball from Yusuf Simsek and finishing from an acute angle after Pierre van Hooijdonk had

missed a first-half penalty.

Denizlispor took three points from their encounter with Malatyaspor, winning 1-0 thanks to a well-taken effort from Coskun Birdal, who poked in Levent Kartop's pass in the 74th minute.

Diyarbakirspor, still without an away triumph, lost 2-1 to Çaykur Rizespor at the Rize Atatürk stadium. Murat Sözkese gave the hosts the lead in the 50th minute and Zafer Demiray soon doubled it. Claude Bakadal grabbed a late consolation for Diyarbakirspor.

Akçaabat Sebatspor let slip a one-goal lead and slumped into the bottom three as they suffered a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Gaziantepspor, who cancelled out Muzaffer Bilazer's headed opener with strikes from Ibrahim Toraman and Hasan Özer.

Struggling Bursaspor picked up their first win of the campaign thanks to a 2-1 home defeat of Konyaspor, despite being reduced to nine men following the dismissals of Ioan Ganea and Júnior. Before he was sent off, Ganea had time to open the scoring in the 54th minute with a well-taken chip. Okan Yilmaz doubled the advantage and Tayfun Türkmen grabbed a late consolation for the visitors, who were also a man down from the 27th minute after Cem Karaca was given a red card.

Samsunspor, meanwhile, overcame nine-man Elazigspor 2-0. Serkan Aykut struck first from the spot after Bekir Gür had been given his marching orders for protesting the decision. It went from bad to worse when when Juraj Czinze was dismissed just after the interval and Stelian Kirita added the second goal.

Besiktas 5-0 Trabzonspor, Denizlispor 1-0 Malatyaspor Rizespor, 2-1 Diyarbakirspor, Akçaabat 1-2 Gaziantepspor, Bursaspor 2-1 Konyaspor, Fenerbahçe 1-0 Gençlerbirliği, Ankaragücü 2-1 Istanbulspor, Samsunspor 2-0 Elazigspor, Adanaspor 0-2 Galatasaray

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Besiktas | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 5 | 19 |
| 2 Fenerbahçe | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 8 | 16 |
| 3 Istanbulspor | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 7 | 14 |
| 4 Galatasaray | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 14 |
| 5 Trabzonspor | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| 6 Malatyaspor | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 12 |
| 7 Denizlispor | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 11 |
| 8 Rizespor | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 11 |
| 9 Ankaragücü | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 10 Gaziantepspor | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| 11 Konyaspor | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 8 |
| 12 Gençlerbirliği | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 7 |
| 13 Samsunspor | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 18 | 7 |
| 14 Diyarbakirspor | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 6 |
| 15 Adanaspor | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| 16 Bursaspor | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 6 |
| 17 Elazigspor | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 19 | 5 |

Scottish Premier League

Shota Arveladze scored twice as Rangers edged back to the top of the Scottish Premier after a hard-fought 3-1 victory over gutsy Dundee at Ibrox. Eventually Rangers made the breakthrough just after the hour mark when Michael Mols headed Peter Lovenkrands' chip back across goal and Arveladze acrobatically volleyed home.

But there was plenty more drama to come at Ibrox as Dundee grabbed a sensational equaliser 13 minutes from time from Nacho Novo who fired home his ninth goal of the season.

But with the visitors in sight of a hard-earned point, Rangers struck twice, first, substitute Paolo Vanoli put the hosts back in front four minutes from time and then hero Arveladze gave them breathing space with the third a minute from time. Henrik Larsson again inspired Celtic who recorded a

Scottish international Stevie Crawford rescued three points for Dunfermline in a 2-1 victory over bottom club Partick Thistle.

Crawford dragged the Pars level 10 minutes into the second half with a low shot after Thistle had failed to clear Sean Kilgannon's corner.

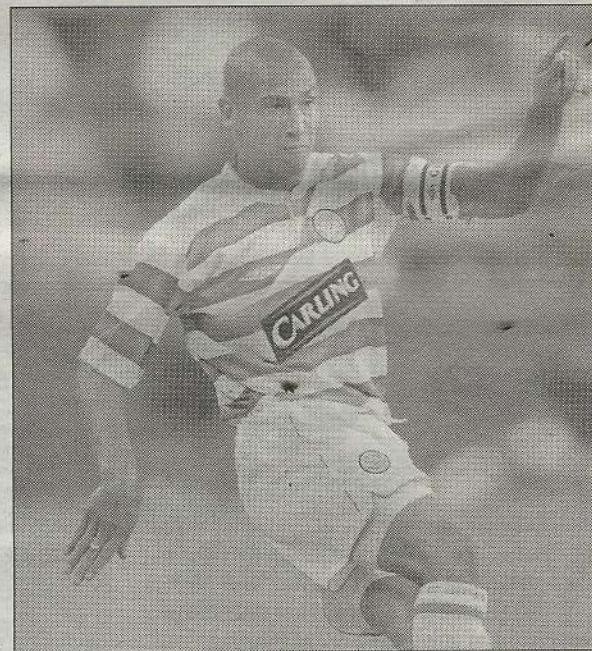
The visitors had taken a shock lead just six minutes earlier through James Grady after John Paul McBride had won a free kick.

And it was Crawford again who was on hand with the winner 20 minutes from time.

The points were shared at Fir Park where Motherwell held Hearts 1-1. Derek Adams gave the home side the lead on the half hour with a deflected shot.

But a mistake by Gordon Marshall allowed Paul Hartley to snatch a point when his 25-yard free kick was fumbled over the line by the veteran keeper.

Livingston cruised to an



Henrik Larsson of Celtic scored the winning goal against Hibs in their two-one win last week.

tough 1-2 win at Hibernian. A red card for defender Bobo Balde though means they will be without the big defender for next week-end's first Old Firm clash of the season.

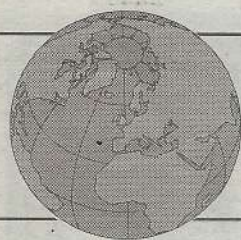
Larsson had just completed their impressive fightback after Alan Thompson had converted from the spot to cancel out Mathias Kouo-Doumbé's opener.

impressive 3-0 victory at Aberdeen

Francisco Quino's gave them the lead seconds before the break and then second-half strikes from Oscar Rubio and Fernando Pasquini underlined their superiority. Kilmarnock grabbed a precious point in a 1-1 draw at Dundee United.

Aberdeen 0 Livingston 3, Dundee Utd 1 Kilmarnock 1, Dunfermline 2 Partick Thistle 1, Hibernian 1 Celtic 2, Motherwell 1 Hearts 1, Rangers 3 Dundee 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Rangers | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 6 | 21 |
| 2 Celtic | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 3 | 19 |
| 3 Hearts | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 13 |
| 4 Dunfermline | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 11 |
| 5 Dundee | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| 6 Livingston | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| 7 Hibernian | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| 8 Motherwell | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| 9 Kilmarnock | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 8 |
| 10 Dundee United | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 5 |
| 11 Aberdeen | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 4 |
| 12 Partick | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 2 |



French Ligue 1

An injury-time penalty earned Olympique Marseille a 2-1 win against Nice, keeping them in touch with leaders Monaco who eased past Toulouse 3-0 to maintain their one-point advantage at the top of the French Ligue 1.

Olympique Marseille got the worse of a tough battle in the first half of a match which often threatened to boil over. Nice's veteran striker Lilian Laslandes opened the scoring with a rocket, the first goal Marseille have conceded at home this season.

Marseille were a different team in the second period and Didier Drogba equalised in the 59th with a shot on the turn. A penalty deep into injury time earned Marseille the three points, Drogba scoring from the spot after Ahmed Hossam Mido was pulled back in the area.

Leaders Monaco strolled to a 3-0 win against a Toulouse team who have now won only once in eight games. Striker Emmanuel Adebayor scored his second goal in successive games after 11 minutes before Edouard Cisse hit a superb half-volley from 30 metres to double the lead. Dado Prso made it three soon after halftime.

Champions Olympique Lyon thrashed RC Lens 4-0 thanks to a Juninho hat-trick. Lens were never able to compete against the home side who were 3-0 up by halftime. Juninho started his goal rush with a free kick and then scored twice from close range before Anthony Reveillere rounded out the scoring.

Bastia recovered from their last start thrashing by AJ Auxerre by beating Sochaux 2-0.

Moroccan midfielder Youssef Hadji opened the scoring in the seventh minute with a fine header from a corner before Maxence Flachez flicked in an own goal when he diverted a Nisa Saveljic header, again following a corner, into his own net.

A stunning free kick by central defender Bruno Carotti in the dying minutes of the game earned a point for Montpellier. Lille had led from the 26th minute when Bulgarian striker Vladimir Manchev scored with a left-foot volley at the near post.

A late rescue act by Metz earned them a deserved point against Guingamp who scored just before halftime with a deflected goal by Christophe Le Roux. Metz's goal in the third minute of injury time came from a move started with a short pass from goalkeeper Ludovic Butelle and ending at the other end with Babacar Gueye sliding a shot inside the post.

Paris St Germain's Pauleta is finding his feet since his move from Bordeaux, after scoring the winner against Auxerre. Pauleta nipped in at the near post after Fabrice Fioresi managed to keep the ball in and crossed at full stretch from the byline.

Le Mans are eight matches into the season but are still without a win after going down to Rennes 2-0.

Striker Frederic Piquionne scored from close range after a corner in the 34th minute before Cyril Jeunechamp rubbed salt in the visitors' wounds with a left foot shot in injury time.

Booed by their fans at halftime, Bordeaux had to wait until 12 minutes from time for the winning goal against Ajaccio.

A cross from the left by Albert Riera was met with a superb leaping header from Jean-Claude Darcheville.

The home side had hit the bar twice earlier in the game, once on the stroke of half-



AS Monaco's Sheyi Adebayor flies high for the ball during the match against Toulouse at Monaco Stadium.

time through an Albert Celades header.

Strasbourg dominated from the kickoff at home but struggled to find an opening, while Nantes looked quite happy to share the points.

Czech under-21 international David Kobylik finally rewarded the home side with a deserved goal in extra time.

Marseille 2 Nice 1, Monaco 3 Toulouse 0, Lyon 4 RC Lens 0, Bastia 2 Sochaux 0, Lille 1 Montpellier 1, Metz 1 En Avant Guingamp 1, Paris St Germain 1 AJ Auxerre 0, Stade Rennes 2 Le Mans 0, Bordeaux 1 AC Ajaccio 0, Racing Strasbourg 1 Nantes 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Monaco | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 19 |
| 2 Marseille | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 4 | 18 |
| 3 Lyon | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 14 |
| 4 Nice | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 14 |
| 5 Nantes | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| 6 Strasbourg | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 13 |
| 7 Sochaux | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 13 |
| 8 PSG | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 13 |
| 9 Bastia | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 13 |
| 10 Lens | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 13 |
| 11 Rennes | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 12 |
| 12 Lille | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 12 |
| 13 Auxerre | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| 14 Bordeaux | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| 15 Ajaccio | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| 16 Metz | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 17 Montpellier | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| 18 Guingamp | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 5 |
| 19 Toulouse | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 5 |
| 20 Mans | 8 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 15 | 2 |



Belgium First Division

Striker Cedric Roussel struck twice as Racing Genk scored four goals in the last 21 minutes to turn a 3-1 deficit into a thrilling 5-3 at seventh placed Lierse.

The win keeps Genk behind Club Bruges and Anderlecht in the first division.

The former Wolverhampton Wanderers forward scored after 69 and 79 minutes to level the scores at 3-3 before Marco Ingrao (81) and Didier Zokora (87) gave the visitors a remarkable win.

Coaches Sef Vergoosen of Genk and Lierse's Emilio Ferrara have a reputation for fielding teams that are tight defensively, but both sides threw caution to the wind as they went for goals with Genk coming out on top after their late comeback.

The defeat drops Lierse from fourth place to seventh, while Genk remain in touch with leaders Anderlecht, who have maximum points from their seven games after a 4-2 win at Heusden-Zolder and stay seven points clear at the top.

Per Zetterburg scored a hat-trick for the leaders. He opened the scoring on the cusp of half-time before goals early in the second half from Igor de Camargo and Takayuki Suzuki turned the match around. Nevertheless, Zetterburg was on hand to equalise in the 76th minute and made sure of the triumph in the dying moments with his third after Ivica Mornar had increased the lead.

Club Bruges remain in second, on 14 points, after their 3-0 home win over Beveren. Second half goals from Gert Verheyen, Andres Mendoza and an own goal was more than enough for Club Bruges.

Genk also have 14 points followed by three teams on 12 - Excelsior Mouscron, who won 2-0 at home to Royal Antwerp, Ghent, who had a 2-0 victory at Germinal Beerschot, helped by

an own goal, and St Truiden, who drew 1-1 at Charleroi.

But the real surprise was the third defeat in a row for Standard Liege, who started the season with 10 points out of a possible 12, as they lost 2-0 at home to La Louviere.

Nigerian Peter Odemwingie, who found the net last Wednesday in La Louviere's 1-1 home draw with Benfica in the first-round, first-leg UEFA Cup tie, opened the scoring again on 20 minutes.

Club Brugge 3 Beveren 0, Mouscron 2 Antwerp 0, Charleroi 1 Sint-Truiden 1, Mons 0 Cercle Brugge 0, Lierse 3 Genk 5, Standard Liege 0 La Louviere 2, Germinal Beerschot 0 AA Gent 2, Heusden 2 Anderlecht 4, Lokeren 1 Westerlo 3.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 Anderlecht | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 5 | 21 |
| 2 Club Bruges | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 14 |
| 3 Genk | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 14 |
| 4 Mouscron | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 9 | 12 |
| 5 AA Gent | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 12 |
| 6 Sint-Truiden | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 12 |
| 7 Lierse | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 11 |
| 8 Standard | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| 9 La Louviere | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| 10 Germinal Beerschot | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 11 Westerlo | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 9 |
| 12 Cercle Brugge | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 13 Antwerp | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 7 |
| 14 Beveren | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 6 |



FIFA WORLD RANKING

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|-------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Brazil | 834 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 51 Wales | 558 | 50 | -1 | 52 | 1 |
| 2 France | 814 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 52 Côte d'Ivoire | 555 | 59 | 7 | 64 | 12 |
| 3 Spain | 762 | 2 | -1 | 3 | 0 | 53 New Zealand | 550 | 51 | -2 | 49 | -4 |
| 4 Argentina | 754 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 54 Trinidad and Tobago | 549 | 52 | -2 | 47 | -7 |
| 5 Netherlands | 752 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 55 Slovakia | 544 | 53 | -2 | 55 | 0 |
| 6 Germany | 745 | 4 | -2 | 4 | -2 | 55 Venezuela | 544 | 63 | 8 | 69 | 14 |
| 7 Turkey | 733 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 55 Austria | 544 | 61 | 6 | 54 | -1 |
| 8 England | 727 | 7 | -1 | 7 | -1 | 58 Congo DR | 541 | 65 | 7 | 65 | 7 |
| 9 United States | 717 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 59 Iceland | 538 | 70 | 11 | 58 | -1 |
| 10 Czech Republic | 712 | 13 | 3 | 15 | 5 | 59 Scotland | 538 | 64 | 5 | 58 | -1 |
| 11 Italy | 711 | 12 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 61 Zimbabwe | 536 | 55 | -6 | 56 | -5 |
| 11 Mexico | 711 | 9 | -2 | 8 | -3 | 62 Estonia | 534 | 61 | -1 | 60 | -2 |
| 13 Denmark | 710 | 10 | -3 | 12 | -1 | 63 Cuba | 532 | 56 | -7 | 71 | 8 |
| 14 Ireland Republic | 703 | 15 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 64 Iraq | 531 | 56 | -8 | 53 | -11 |
| 15 Portugal | 692 | 14 | -1 | 11 | -4 | 65 Thailand | 529 | 59 | -6 | 66 | 1 |
| 16 Cameroon | 691 | 18 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 65 Guatemala | 529 | 58 | -7 | 78 | 13 |
| 17 Belgium | 672 | 16 | -1 | 17 | 0 | 67 Zambia | 526 | 69 | 2 | 66 | -1 |
| 18 Costa Rica | 663 | 17 | -1 | 21 | 3 | 68 Algeria | 522 | 66 | -2 | 68 | 0 |
| 18 Sweden | 663 | 20 | 2 | 24 | 6 | 69 Ghana | 513 | 67 | -2 | 60 | -9 |
| 20 Paraguay | 657 | 19 | -1 | 18 | -2 | 70 Chile | 510 | 73 | 3 | 84 | 14 |
| 21 Romania | 652 | 27 | 6 | 24 | 3 | 70 China PR | 510 | 68 | -2 | 63 | -7 |
| 22 Colombia | 651 | 39 | 17 | 37 | 15 | 72 Burkina Faso | 508 | 83 | 11 | 75 | 3 |
| 23 Norway | 648 | 24 | 1 | 26 | 3 | 73 Mali | 505 | 74 | 1 | 73 | 0 |
| 24 Japan | 643 | 23 | -1 | 22 | -2 | 74 Qatar | 499 | 71 | -3 | 62 | -12 |
| 24 Korea Republic | 643 | 21 | -3 | 20 | -4 | 75 Bosnia-Herzegovina | 495 | 72 | -3 | 67 | 12 |
| 26 Croatia | 640 | 26 | 0 | 32 | 6 | 76 Kenya | 493 | 78 | 2 | 80 | 4 |
| 27 Serbia and Montenegro | 636 | 22 | -5 | 19 | -8 | 77 Jordan | 489 | 75 | -2 | 77 | 0 |
| 28 Senegal | 633 | 29 | 1 | 27 | -1 | 78 Canada | 482 | 77 | -1 | 70 | -8 |
| 29 Slovenia | 628 | 36 | 7 | 36 | 7 | 79 Latvia | 481 | 79 | 0 | 78 | -1 |
| 30 Russia | 627 | 25 | -5 | 22 | -8 | 80 Peru | 480 | 81 | 1 | 82 | 2 |
| 31 Nigeria | 626 | 32 | 1 | 29 | -2 | 81 Angola | 479 | 86 | 5 | 76 | -5 |
| 31 Uruguay | 626 | 28 | -3 | 28 | -3 | 82 Belarus | 478 | 76 | -6 | 74 | -8 |
| 33 South Africa | 619 | 31 | -2 | 30 | -3 | 83 Cyprus | 474 | 88 | 5 | 80 | -3 |
| 33 Greece | 619 | 45 | 12 | 48 | 15 | 84 Haiti | 473 | 80 | -4 | 71 | -13 |
| 33 Poland | 619 | 29 | -4 | 33 | 0 | 85 El Salvador | 469 | 82 | -3 | 94 | 9 |
| 36 Ecuador | 616 | 33 | -3 | 31 | -5 | 86 Togo | 468 | 92 | 6 | 85 | -1 |
| 37 Morocco | 613 | 38 | 1 | 35 | -2 | 86 Georgia | 468 | 84 | -2 | 90 | 4 |
| 38 Bulgaria | 612 | 35 | -3 | 42 | 4 | 88 Albania | 466 | 89 | 1 | 93 | 5 |
| 39 Egypt | 606 | 44 | 5 | 39 | 0 | 89 Indonesia | 465 | 84 | -5 | 110 | 21 |
| 40 Switzerland | 605 | 43 | 3 | 44 | 4 | 90 Macedonia FYR | 461 | 93 | 3 | 85 | -5 |
| 41 Iran | 600 | 34 | -7 | 33 | -8 | 91 Kuwait | 455 | 87 | -4 | 83 | -8 |
| 42 Honduras | 596 | 37 | -5 | 40 | -2 | 91 Libya | 455 | 97 | 6 | 104 | 13 |
| 42 Tunisia | 596 | 40 | -2 | 41 | -1 | 93 Syria | 445 | 90 | -3 | 91 | -2 |
| 44 Israel | 593 | 40 | -4 | 46 | 2 | 94 Barbados | 442 | 94 | 0 | 99 | 5 |
| 45 Finland | 585 | 45 | 0 | 43 | -2 | 95 United Arab Emirates | 439 | 90 | -5 | 89 | -6 |
| 46 Saudi Arabia | 581 | 42 | -4 | 38 | -8 | 95 Vietnam SR | 439 | 95 | 0 | 108 | 13 |
| 47 Ukraine | 579 | 47 | 0 | 45 | -2 | 95 Singapore | 439 | 98 | 3 | 118 | 23 |
| 48 Jamaica | 571 | 48 | 0 | 51 | 3 | 98 Liberia | 438 | 96 | -2 | 88 | -10 |
| 49 Hungary | 570 | 54 | 5 | 56 | 7 | 99 Lithuania | 427 | 99 | 0 | 100 | 1 |
| 50 Australia | 562 | 49 | -1 | 50 | 0 | 100 Congo | 423 | 100 | 0 | 97 | -3 |

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